Webequie Supply Road Project

January 30, 2026

AtkinsRéalis Ref: 661910

APPENDIX L: SOCIO-ECONOMIC EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

AtkinsRéalis

WSR WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
AA	Alcoholics Anonymous
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AFNEA	Attawapiskat First Nation Education Authority
AIP	Area of Interest for Planning
ANSI	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest
AOLCC	Academy of Learning Career College
APS	Anishinabek Police Service
ASAP	Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program
CBC	Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
CBLUP	Community-Based Land Use Plan
CCP	Comprehensive Community Plan
CDSSAB	Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
CBLUP	Community-Based Land Use Plan
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAA	Environmental Assessment Act
EAR	Environmental Assessment Report
EMA	Enhanced Management Area
FMZ	Fisheries Management Zone
FN	First Nation
FNIH	First Nations and Inuit Health
FNIHCC	First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care
FNLMA	*First Nations Land Management Act*
GBA	Gender Based Analysis
GBA+	Gender Based Analysis Plus
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GUA	General Use Area
HBC	Hudson's Bay Company
IA	Impact Assessment
IAA	Impact Assessment Act
IK	Indigenous Knowledge

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
IKLRU	Indigenous Knowledge and Land and Resource Use
IKLU	Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use
IS	Impact Statement
ITS	Integrated Transportation System
KI	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
KIDO	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Dibenjikewin Onaakonikewin
KIHS	Keewaytinook Internet High School
KKETS	Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services
KNET	KuhKenah Network
KO	Keewaytinook Okimakanak
KWG	KWG Resources
LICO	Low Income Cut-Off
LP	Limited Partnership
LSA	Local Study Area
MBM	Market Basket Measure
MECP	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
METS	Mushkegowuk Council Employment & Training Service
MINES	Ministry of Mines
MMIWG	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
MNDMNRF	Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
MNRF	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources (now Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry [MNRF])
MOHLTC	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NA	Narcotics Anonymous
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NAN	Nishnawbe Aski Nation
NAPS	Nishnawbe Aski Police Service
NNS	Neegan Naynowan Stantec
NOC	National Occupational Classification
NOHFC	Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
NOIP	Northern Ontario Internship Program
NORT	Northern Ontario Resource Trail

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
NOS	National Occupancy Standard
NRL	Northern Road Link
OCAP	Ownership, Control, Access, And Possession
OCWA	Ontario Clean Water Agency
OPP	Ontario Provincial Police
OP	Official Plan
OTN	Ontario Telemedicine Network
PCMNO	Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario
PD	Professional Development
PFAS	Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
PPS	Provincial Policy Statements
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
RBC	Rotating Biological Contactor
RSA	Regional Study Area
SJMEC	Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre
SLFA	Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord
TISG	Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
TKG	ThawiKayhiGan
ToR	Terms of Reference
VFR	Visual Flight Rules
WAHA	Weeneebayko Area Health Authority
WEA	Webequie First Nation Education Authority
WGI	Wasaya Group Inc
WMU	Wildlife Management Units
WSR	Webequie Supply Road
YWRP	Youth Wilderness Retreat Program

List of Units

Unit	Definition
%	percent
km	kilometre
km^2	square kilometre
m	metre
$	Canadian dollar

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B: Webequie Supply Road Socio-Economic Focus Groups-Sample Questions
C: Webequie Supply Road Socio-Economic Interviews-Key Informant

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The proposed Webequie Supply Road (WSR, or 'the Project') is a proposed new all-season road approximately 107 kilometres (km) in length from the Webequie First Nation Reserve to the mineral deposit area near McFaulds Lake (also referred to as the Ring of Fire). The Project location is shown on **Figure 1-1**. The preliminary corridor for the road consists of a northwest-southeast segment running 51 km from the Webequie First Nation Reserve to a 56 km segment running east-west before terminating near McFaulds Lake. A total of 17 km of the corridor is within the Webequie First Nation Reserve.

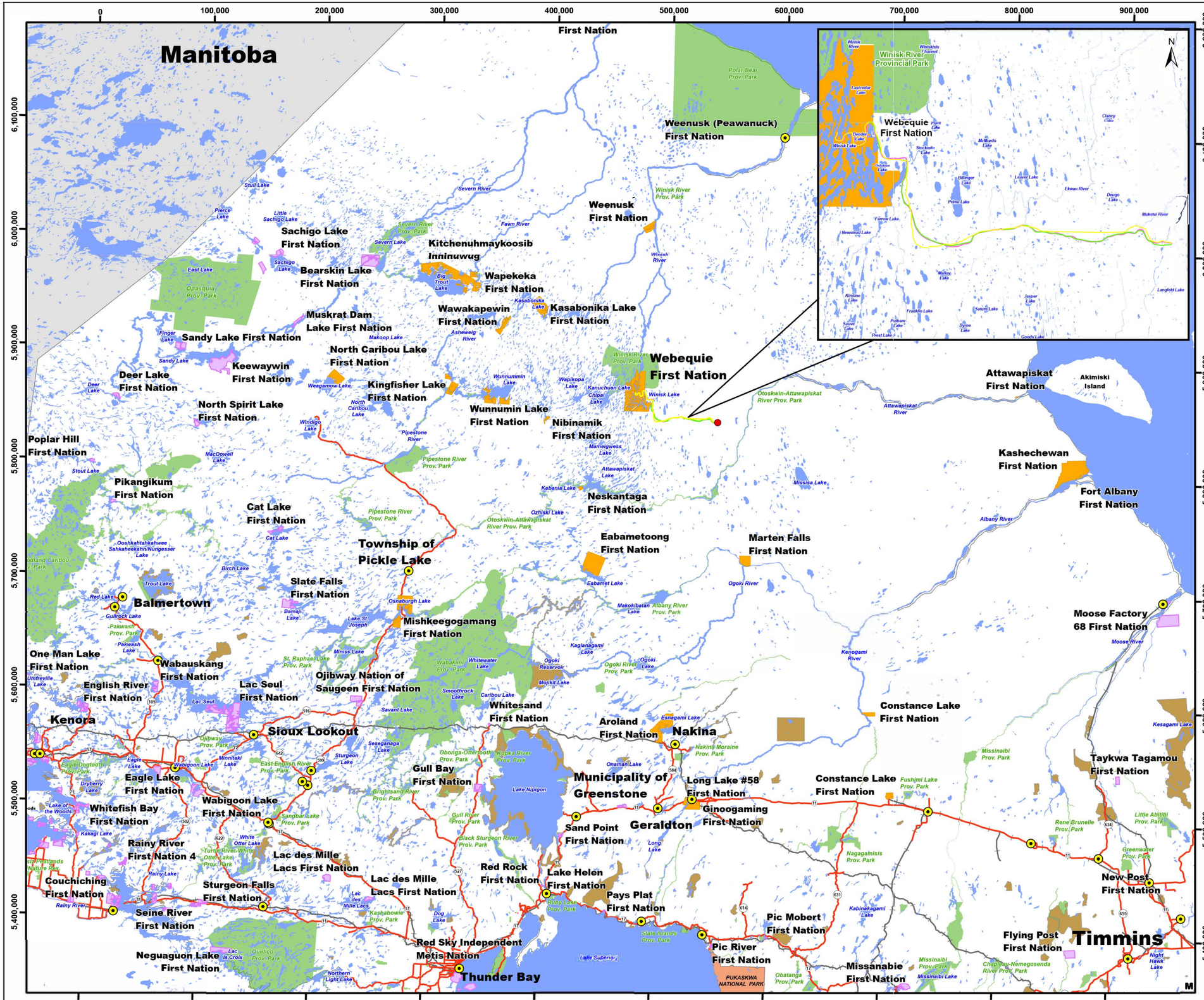
The goals and objectives of the Webequie Supply Road Project are as follows:

- To facilitate the movement of materials, supplies and people from the Webequie Airport to the area of existing mineral exploration activities and proposed mine developments in the McFaulds Lake area;
- To provide employment and other economic development opportunities to Webequie First Nation community members and businesses that reside in or around the community's reserve and traditional territory, while preserving their language and culture; and
- To provide experience/training opportunities for youth related to the Project, which in turn will help encourage attainment of additional skills through post-secondary education, as well as other training and work experience.

On May 3, 2018, the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) (then Minister of the Environment and Climate Change) signed a voluntary agreement with Webequie First Nation to make the WSR subject to an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act) (MECP, 2018). The Project is also subject to meeting the requirements of the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (IA Act) as determined by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada ("the Agency" or IAAC) based on the review of the federal Detailed Project Description for the Project. For the purposes of this Socio-Economic Existing Conditions Report, the term "EA/IA" or "assessment" is meant to include both the provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) and the federal Impact Assessment (IA).

This Socio-Economic Existing Conditions Report has been prepared to both meet the requirements of the federal Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) for the Project, dated February 24, 2020 (IAAC, 2020), and fulfil the commitments put forward in the provincial Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Project.

The purpose of the Socio-Economic Existing Conditions Report is to characterize the existing conditions (i.e., Socio-Economic Baseline) and identify trends to establish the basis for assessing the manner, and extent to which, Socio-Economic conditions could be affected by the Project (Webequie First Nation, 2020). The Socio-Economic Baseline will be integrated into the Socio-Economic IA which will be a key part of the EA/IA process.



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1.2 Project Context

The proposed Webequie Supply Road (WSR, or 'the Project') is a proposed new all-season road approximately 107 kilometres (km) in length from the Webequie First Nation Reserve to the mineral deposit area near McFaulds Lake (also referred to as the Ring of Fire). The preliminary corridor for the road consists of a northwest-southeast segment running 51 km from the Webequie First Nation Reserve to a 56 km segment running east-west before terminating near McFaulds Lake. A total of 17 km of the corridor is within the Webequie First Nation Reserve.

This information provided in this document is preliminary at this time. Information on existing conditions is used to provide a baseline understanding of the valued components of the community. This is a living draft document that has yet to be reviewed and validated by the Communities. Information on existing conditions is used to provide a baseline understanding of the valued components of each community. Potential effects of the Project on valued components will be assessed by comparing baseline conditions to those expected to result from the construction and operation and maintenance of the Project.

Webequie First Nation is the proponent for the Project. The Project Team led by Webequie First Nation is striving to gather as much Anishinaabemowin/Anishinaabe/Mushkegowuk (Cree) Indigenous Knowledge as it relates to the Project and to help inform the Socio-Economic Baseline. This document will be continuously updated when information from the Webequie First Nation and other communities is shared with the Project Team.

The gathering of important Indigenous Knowledge takes time due to the limited resources of communities as well as following culturally relevant protocols, which require relationship building and consistency to establish trust.

1.3 Historical and Contemporary Context

Webequie is an Anishinaabemowin (Oji-Cree) Tawin (community) in Treaty No. 9 territory, located about 540 km north of the City of Thunder Bay. Anishinaabemowin is a blend of Anishinaabe (Ojibway) and Mushkegowuk (James Bay Cree).

Before the first settlers arrived, the Anishinaabe and Mushkegowuk, understood by Webequie First Nation, sustainably shared the territory and lived Mino Bimaadzwin (The good life) through guidance from Anishinaabe law, which governs their Kii'manitu'meano-goonan (Creator given) responsibilities to assure a good relationship with the Land (Webequie First Nation, 2021).

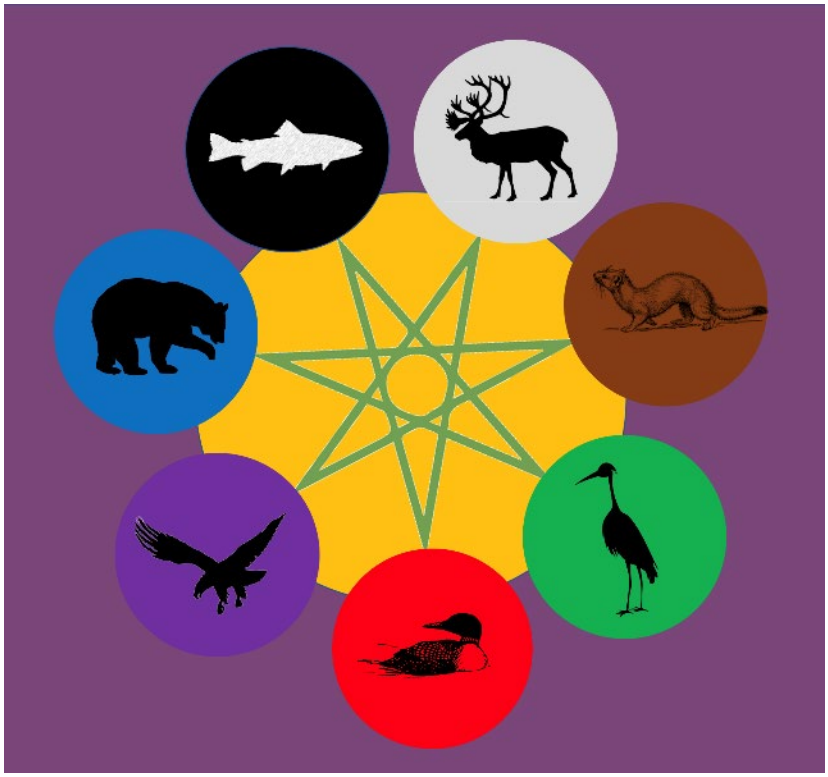
Generally, the Anishinaabe and Mushkegowuk shared a common spiritual view with Indigenous Nations across the continent, and that is based on a profound respect for Shkagamik-Kwe (Mother Earth), which was also a relationship based on reciprocity (Thomas, 2020; Helin, 2008).

As the proponent for the Project, Webequie First Nation People have lived with the effects of colonial impositions since the arrival of Europeans to the continent and the formation of Canada. It is believed the impositions, spanning more than seven generations have had a reverberating impact on the Anishinaabemowin. These impacts should be understood while considering 'baseline' Socio-Economic data because Webequie, the proponent for the Project has been striving for Mino Bimaadzwin and to strengthen their Nation in a holistic way while reclaiming culture which feeds into baseline data as well as Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

Before settlers arrived, traditionally, Anishinaabe and Mushkegowuk Peoples governed themselves through their own governance structures and Natural laws. governed themselves through a clan-style system, as shown on .

Typically, the Anishinaabe Peoples govern themselves through a clan-system which includes seven main clans with many sub-clans. Each clan has different responsibilities within the Nation at large.

Figure 1-2: Representation of the Anishinabek Dodemag (the "Clan System")



Source: Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, 2023.

According to interviews with Webequie First Nation knowledge holders, colonial impacts have been devastating in Anishinaabe and Mushkegowuk Homelands. Before the Hudson Bay Company (HBC) established itself and exploited fur-bearing animals to support trade in Europe, the people lived sustainably with the land. Fur-bearing animals were hunted to near extinction, with the beaver population having been nearly decimated, which resulted in starvation for the people living in their homelands (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). Before that time, Anishinaabemowin had never before been subject to a commerce style economy (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

The *Indian Act*, implemented in 1876 is understood from Webequie First Nation knowledge holders to have had adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples across Canada. Perhaps the most harm was done while Indigenous children were forced to attend Indian Residential Schools, which were either government run, or church run institutions (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

A timeline has been developed to better understand the effects of legislation, encroachment on rights as well as reconciliation efforts, as shown in **Table 1-1**.

Table 1-1: Timeline of Effects on Indigenous Peoples of Canada from Legislation, Encroachment on Rights and Reconciliation Efforts

Timeline	Effects
Hudson Bay Company, 1670	The HBC officially established itself in 1670 to set up trade for the fur industry (primarily beaver pelts). HBC set up its first official post in 1673 in Moose Factory, near the southern hub of James Bay and subsequently built a small outpost along the Albany River in 1743. The exploitation of animals for fur in the region resulted in a starvation crisis for the Anishinaabe and Mushkegowuk. It took the beaver population a considerable time to recover (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).
Royal Proclamation, 1763	Established constitutional basis for future negotiations of treaties and confirmed the protection of lands for the exclusive use by Indigenous Peoples (Hall, 2019).
British North America Act, 1867	The *British North America Act* made the federal government responsible for Indigenous Peoples (Government of Canada, 2011).
Indian Act, 1876	Imposed the Reserve system 1876 – ongoing. Forced attendance at Indian Residential Schools 1894 – 1996. Outlawed ceremonies: 1876 – 1951. Oppressed women's rights: 1876 – ongoing. Imposed the band council system 1876 – ongoing. 60's Scoop – Gave provinces jurisdiction to 'scoop' Indigenous children from their homes. There have been class action lawsuits to address the loss of culture and identity.
James Bay Treaty (Treaty No. 9), 1905	Signed treaties with Anishinaabe, Mushkegowuk, and Anishinaabemowin. Indigenous Peoples in the territory wanted protections for lands, resources and fur-bearing animals.
The Mines Act, 1906	Established staking and prospectors' licenses for exclusive rights to stake and work upon Crown lands.
Ontario Registered Trapline System, 1946	Imposed sole ownership of trapping areas, which did not align with cultural values (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).
Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996	Mandated to investigate and propose solutions to the challenges affecting the relationship between Aboriginal Peoples, the Canadian government, and Canadian Society.
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015	Final Report, Calls to Action, Indian Residential School settlement agreement (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015).
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019	Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG, 2019).

The implementation of legislated colonial policies has impacted Indigenous Nations like Webequie First Nation, and can provide one lens through which to understand current socio-economic conditions.

1.4 Report Organization

This Socio-Economic Existing Conditions Report is organized into the following sections:

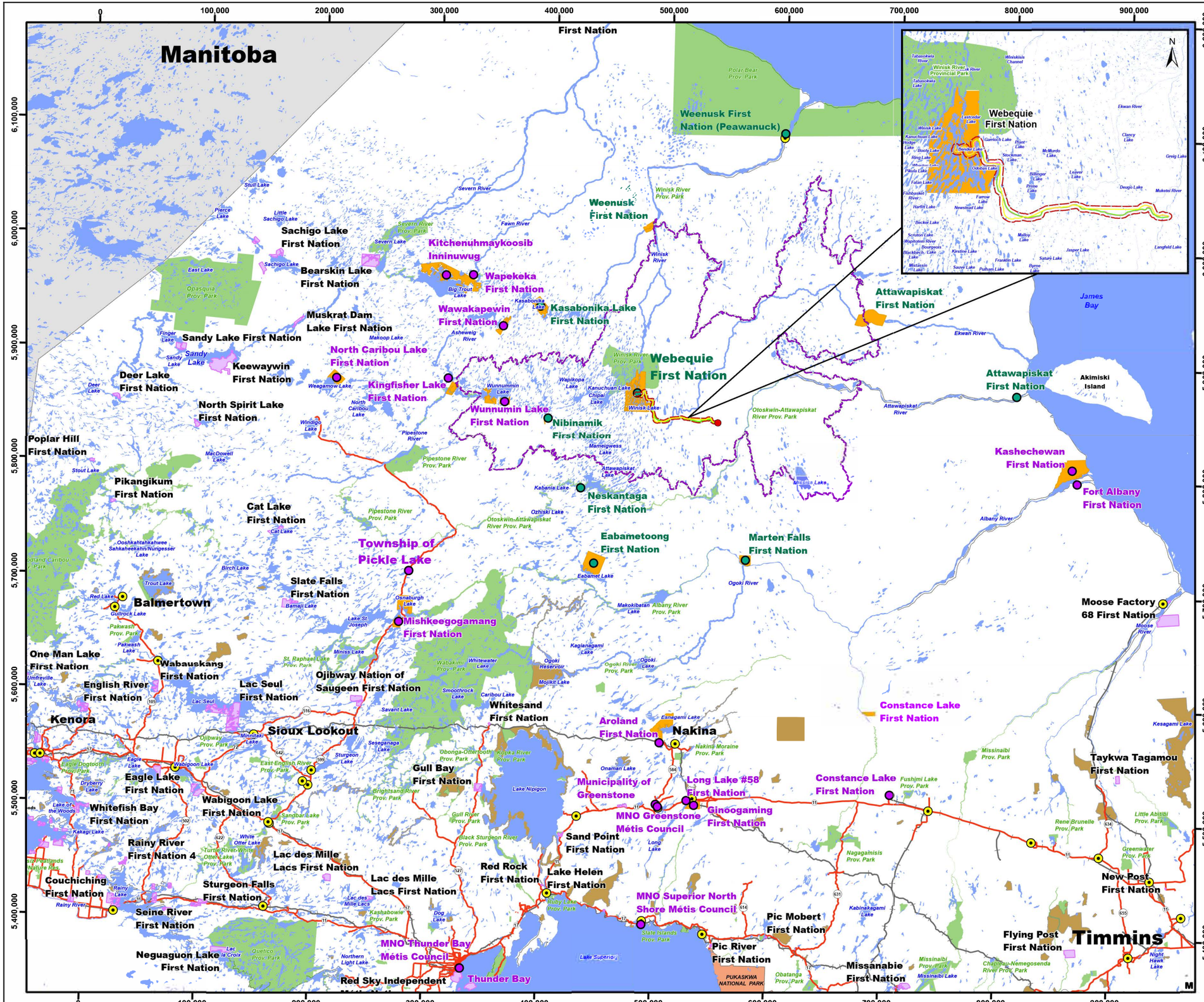
- **Section 1** – Introduction;
- **Section 2** – Spatial and Temporal Boundaries;
- **Section 3** – Methods;
- **Section 4** – Community Setting;

- **Section 5** – Social Environment (Population and Demographics; Housing and Accommodations; Community Services; Education and Training Services; Emergency and Protective Services; Community Infrastructure; Transportation; Community Well-Being and Safety);
- **Section 6** – Economic Environment (Labour Force and Employment; Overall Economy; Business Environment; Public and Indigenous Community Finances);
- **Section 7** – Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource Use (Traditional Harvesting; Culturally and Spiritually Important Sites and Areas);
- **Section 8** – Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use (Land Use Plans and Policies; Industrial Land Use; Commercial Use, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism; Provincial Parks, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, and Protected Areas); and
- **Section 9** – References.

2 Spatial and Temporal Boundaries

2.1 Spatial Boundaries

The preliminary spatial boundaries that define the study areas are intended to capture the geographic extent of potential effects to consider for the effects assessment. **Figure 2-1** presents the preliminary Local Study Area (LSA) and the Regional Study Area (RSA) for the Socio-Economic Baseline, as well as land and resource use LSA and RSA boundaries. The spatial boundary of each Socio-Economic criterion or valued component can vary depending on the nature of each Socio-Economic characteristic and further refined as needed for each component and described accordingly. The preliminary study areas have been defined based on input received from Indigenous Nations and communities, the public, federal and provincial government agencies, stakeholders and other interested parties. In addition, the Project Team researched other projects in the region and similar projects elsewhere to gather input based on previous experience.



Legend

Route Alternatives

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3 (Preferred Route)
- Socio-Economic Local Study Area
- Socio-Economic Regional Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Local Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Regional Study Area
- First Nation Reserve – Engaged in the Project
- First Nation Reserve
- Waterbody
- Provincial Park
- Conservation Reserve
- Federal National Park
- All-Season Road
- Rail
- Cities/Towns
- East terminus of the WSR in a proposed future mining development area

Webequie Supply Road (WSR)

Preliminary Local Study Area and Regional Study Area for the Socio-Economic Baseline

Figure Number:	REV
2.1	PA

Client:	Project Number:	Date:
Webequie First Nation	661910	2/26/2024

	DRN	CHK	APP
DSC	AD	VS	VS

0 20 40 80 Km

WSR WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Ontario MNR Lambert
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Download Date: 2021-02-04

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Spatial boundaries are described in terms of study areas. The following study areas are used in this Socio-Economic Baseline:

- **Project Footprint:** The area of direct disturbance (i.e., the physical area required for Project construction and operation). The Project Footprint is defined as the WSR right-of-way- of 35 metres (m) in width to be selected through the evaluation of Alternative Routes 1, 2 and 3; and temporary or permanent areas needed to support the Project that include laydown yards, storage yards, construction camps, access roads and aggregate extraction sites (**Figure 2-1**).
- **Local Study Area (LSA)**: The area within which largely direct, and indirect Project interactions with criteria or valued components of the Socio-Economic environment are anticipated and potential Project related effects are expected to occur. Two distinct LSAs are used in the Socio-Economic Baseline:
  - The LSA for Population and Demographics, Community Services and Infrastructure (i.e., Housing and Accommodations, Community Services, Education and Training, Emergency and Protective Services, Community Infrastructure, Transportation, and Community Well-Being and Safety), and Local and Regional Economy (i.e., Labour Force and Employment, Overall Economy, Business Environment, and Public and Indigenous Community Finance) is defined as Webequie First Nation and those communities that have asserted shared traditional territory with Webequie First Nation and/or whose asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights may be adversely impacted as a result of the Project (shown on **Figure 2-1)**. The proposed LSA consists of eight of the Indigenous First Nations identified by the Crown (federal and provincial governments) for engagement and consultation on the Project, listed in **Table 2-1**, as follows:
    - Webequie First Nation;
    - Attawapiskat First Nation;
    - Eabametoong First Nation;
    - Kasabonika Lake First Nation;
    - Marten Falls First Nation;
    - Neskantaga First Nation;
    - Nibinamik First Nation; and
    - Weenusk First Nation.
  - The LSA for Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource Use (i.e., Traditional Harvesting, Culturally and Spiritually Important Sites and Areas), and Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use (i.e., Land Use Plans and Policies, Industrial and Commercial Land Use, Recreation, Tourism, Provincial Parks, Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), and Protected Areas) corresponds to the outermost boundaries of the combined LSAs for fish and fish habitat, surface water, vegetation, general wildlife, and air quality valued components. These components also correspond to human health and the traditional use of the land by Indigenous Peoples. They have been included in the delineation of geographic parameters to describe existing conditions. It is defined as a 1 km buffer from either side of the centre-line of the supply road Alternative Routes 1, 2, and 3, and 500 m from supportive infrastructure (i.e., camps, aggregate/rock source areas, access roads) (shown on **Figure 2-1**).
- **Regional Study Area (RSA):** The area within which indirect and cumulative effects of the Project in the broader regional context may occur. Similar to the LSA, two distinct RSAs are used in the Socio-Economic Baseline:
  - The RSA for Population and Demographics, Community Services and Infrastructure (i.e., Housing and Accommodations, Community Services, Education and Training, Emergency and Protective Services, Community Infrastructure, Transportation, and Community Well-Being and Safety), and Local and Regional Economy encompasses the area outside of the LSA used to measure broader-scale existing Socio-Economic conditions and effects that may occur in a regional context. The proposed RSA consists of other 14 Indigenous communities also identified by the Crown (federal and provincial governments) for engagement and consultation and not included in the LSA (**Table 2-1**). These communities are located within the regional

unorganized districts and census divisions of Kenora, Thunder Bay and Cochrane. The RSA also includes surrounding townships and cities/municipalities. Communities in the RSA are listed below by district and shown on **Figure 2-1**.

- Kenora District:
  - Kashechewan First Nation;
  - Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation;
  - Kingfisher Lake First Nation;
  - Mishkeegogamang First Nation;
  - North Caribou Lake First Nation;
  - Wapekeka First Nation;
  - Wawakapewin First Nation;
  - Wunnumin Lake First Nation;
  - Township of Pickle Lake; and
  - Municipality of Sioux Lookout.
- Thunder Bay District:
  - Aroland First Nation;
  - Ginoogaming First Nation;
  - Long Lake #58 First Nation;
  - City of Thunder Bay; and
  - Municipality of Greenstone.
- Cochrane District:
  - Constance Lake First Nation;
  - Fort Albany First Nation; and
  - City of Timmins.
- The RSA for Land and Resource Use (Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource Use), and Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use (i.e., Land Use Plans and Policies, Industrial and Commercial Land Use, Recreation, Tourism, Provincial Parks and Protected Areas) corresponds to the outermost boundaries of the combined RSAs for fish and fish habitat, surface water, vegetation, and general wildlife valued components given that these components may be relied on by Indigenous Peoples or others for land and resource use. The RSA is the combined area of the quaternary watersheds crossed by Alternative Routes 1, 2 and 3 (shown on **Figure 2-1**). Where deemed appropriate, additional regional context is provided outside of this boundary.

Upon initializing the Project, overall the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) identified 22 Indigenous communities whose Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests may be affected by the Project and/or may have interest in the Project, based on the nature and location of the Project. The Indigenous communities identified are listed in **Table 2-1**. This list provided direction to the Project Team on setting parameters for the design of the Socio-Economic Baseline.

Table 2-1: Indigenous Communities with Potential to be Affected and/or with an Interest in the Project as Identified by Provincial and Federal Crown Agencies

Indigenous Community	Identified by MECP	Identified by the IAAC
Webequie First Nation	✓*	✓ *
Aroland First Nation	✓*	✓*
Attawapiskat First Nation	✓*	✓*
Constance Lake First Nation	✓*	✓
Eabametoong First Nation	✓	✓
Fort Albany First Nation	✓*	✓*
Ginoogaming First Nation	✓	✓
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	✓*	✓*
Kashechewan First Nation	✓*	✓*
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation	✓*	✓
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	✓*	✓
Long Lake #58 First Nation	✓	✓
Marten Falls First Nation	✓*	✓*
Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2	✓	
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	✓	
Neskantaga First Nation	✓*	✓*
Nibinamik First Nation	✓*	✓*
North Caribou Lake First Nation	✓	
Wapekeka First Nation	✓*	
Wawakapewin First Nation	✓*	
Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation	✓*	✓*
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	✓*	

Notes: Indigenous communities or organizations/groups whose rights may be affected by the Project, according to MECP and the Agency, are marked with an asterisk.

The Project Team reviewed the above list of the Crown's in conjunction with previous Webequie community planning work[1] and considered and defined LSA and RSA spatial boundaries according to the following criteria:

- Community proximity to the Project;
- Past and present traditional use of lands and resources near the Project;
- Consideration of impacts to downstream communities and land use within potentially affected watersheds;

[1] The Webequie First Nation has undertaken previous planning work related to its draft CBLUP, CCP and On-Reserve Land Use Plan.

- Close familial/clan connections to the members of the Webequie First Nation; and/or
- Indigenous communities that have indicated potential effect(s) to their community due to the Project, and/or through previous all-season road planning studies.

Throughout the ongoing consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities and organizations/ groups and Peoples, the public, federal and provincial government agencies, stakeholders and other interested parties, the opportunity to comment on proposed valued components and study areas was provided.

Table 2-2 summarizes the LSAs and RSAs used for the Socio-Economic Baseline.

Table 2-2: Study Areas for Valued Components of the Socio-Economic Environment

Valued Component	LSA	RSA
Socio-Economic Environment		
▪ Social Environment ▪ Regional and Local Economy	▪ Webequie First Nation ▪ Marten Falls First Nation ▪ Nibinamik First Nation ▪ Neskantaga First Nation ▪ Kasabonika Lake First Nation ▪ Eabametoong First Nation ▪ Attawapiskat First Nation ▪ Weenusk First Nation	▪ Kashechewan First Nation ▪ Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation ▪ Kingfisher Lake First Nation ▪ Mishkeegogamang First Nation ▪ North Caribou Lake First Nation ▪ Wapekeka First Nation ▪ Wawakapewin First Nation ▪ Wunnumin Lake First Nation ▪ Township of Pickle Lake ▪ Municipality of Sioux Lookout ▪ Aroland First Nation ▪ Ginoogaming First Nation ▪ Long Lake #58 First Nation ▪ City of Thunder Bay ▪ Municipality of Greenstone ▪ Constance Lake First Nation ▪ Fort Albany First Nation ▪ City of Timmins
Land and Resource Use		
▪ Indigenous Current and Historical Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes ▪ Cultural Continuity ▪ Exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights	1 km buffer from either side of the centreline of the supply road Alternative Routes 1, 2, and 3, and 500 m from supportive infrastructure.	Combined area of the quaternary watersheds crossed by Alternative Routes 1, 2 and 3.
Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use		
▪ Land Use Compatibility and Stewardship ▪ Commercial and Industrial ▪ Recreation (i.e., camps, trails, waterways, etc.) ▪ Tourism	1 km buffer from either side of the centreline of the supply road Alternative Routes 1, 2, and 3, and 500 m from supportive infrastructure.	Combined area of the quaternary watersheds crossed by Alternative Routes 1, 2 and 3.

Valued Component	LSA	RSA
▪ Provincial and Federal Parks, Ontario ANSI and other Protected Areas ▪ Transportation		

2.2 Temporal Boundaries

Implementation of the Project will occur in phases. The potential Project interactions with the Socio-Economic environment, and the potential occurrence of residual effects, are anticipated to be different in each Project phase. The Project will comprise two phases:

- **Construction Phase:** All the activities for development of the road and supportive infrastructure from the start of construction to the start of operation and maintenance of the WSR (estimated 5-6 years); and
- **Operations Phase:** All activities for operation and maintenance of the road and any permanent supportive infrastructure (e.g., maintenance yard, aggregate pit/quarry) that will start after construction (75-year period is used for assessment).

The Project will be operated for an indeterminate period of time; therefore, retirement (decommissioning/ abandonment/ closure) is not anticipated and will not be considered in the EA/IA.

It is anticipated that the Construction Phase will begin in 2028, and the Operations Phase will begin in 2033.

Where quantitative data is available to make projections about future baseline conditions without the Project, as well as associated impacts with the Project, the baseline will be evaluated in the following time intervals:

- 2016: Historical census period;
- 2021: Current census period;
- 2028: Estimated start of Construction Phase;
- 2033: Estimated start of Operations Phase; and
- 2043: Corresponds to 10 years into the Operations Phase.

3 Methods

The purpose of the Socio-Economic Baseline is to characterize the existing conditions of the Socio-Economic environment, and to identify trends to assess how the Socio-Economic environment may be affected (both positively and negatively) by the Project. The Socio-Economic Baseline will be integrated into the overall EA/IA process.

This section describes the methods used to characterize Socio-Economic existing conditions within the spatial and temporal boundaries defined in **Section 2.** Analytical frameworks are described for integrating information using different lenses or perspectives to help deepen the understanding of community characteristics. This includes the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge, community knowledge, meaningful engagement, and Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+). With respect to Indigenous Knowledge interviews, it was expressed that transference of Knowledge between Knowledge Keepers/Holders, Elders and Youth need to happen more often in order to set up Youth in a holistic way to help carry communities into the future. Cultural Knowledge is of utmost importance to Webequie in addition to Western education.

Community Socio-Economic profiles were developed through the data collection process, using available information and working with communities that expressed an interest in participating in the research. The following sections describe the mixed methods approach of using quantitative and qualitative data collection, and inputs from secondary and primary sources.

3.1 Indigenous Community Participation

The Project Team has sought to engage and work with Indigenous communities and organizations/groups in the collection and use of Indigenous Knowledge about the biophysical environment, community health, social and economic conditions, and traditional Indigenous land and resource use. This information is owned, held and controlled by the communities, and therefore it is considered critical to continue to work with Indigenous communities and organizations/groups to understand Socio-Economic existing conditions. Three approaches were taken to facilitate participation of Indigenous communities and organizations/groups in the EA/IA process, and specifically related to the Socio-Economic Baseline, as described in this section and **Section 3.2.2**.

3.1.1 Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

The Socio-Economic Baseline incorporates feedback, inputs on issues, concerns and values from consultation and engagement activities with 22 Indigenous communities and organizations/groups as part of the EA/IA process.

A variety of activities and materials have been used to provide information and receive general input from Indigenous communities and organizations/groups. These activities are designed to enable multiple opportunities for communities to provide input and feedback covering all aspects of the Project. The methods of engagement have included:

- Notification letters;
- Radio, flyers and social media advertising;
- In-person on-reserve community meetings and open house meetings;
- Community meetings and open house meetings with off-reserve community members and Tribal Councils/Indigenous organizations;
- Radio and livestream information sessions;
- Communications materials such as fact sheets and frequently asked questions;
- Audio and visual products including YouTube channel with recorded Project content;

- Project website; and
- Project newsletters.

The Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program and the Indigenous Knowledge and Land and Resource Use (IKLRU) Program provided an additional way to involve communities in the EA/IA process. The Indigenous Knowledge (IK) information collection was developed with multiple steps to be led by each community (or their selected advisors/consultants/contractors) with respect to gathering, documenting, obtaining permission of use, and validating IK documents. Validation is a process for the community and its knowledge holders to verify the accuracy, completeness and sensitivity of the IK that has been collected for a project. During IK data collection, the community's practitioners and/or contractors may meet with community members, especially IK holders that participated in the study, to review IK collected, to discuss, question, add to the information and verify that the community is comfortable and confident with the accuracy and completeness of the information presented. The process is consistent with the TISG prepared by the Agency and adheres to the following guiding principles:

- Respect for IK holders;
- Building relationships;
- Carrying on an ongoing dialogue with community members;
- Community involvement to validate the context and the meaning of the IK provided;
- Transparency of the process; and
- Gaining permissions from communities for usage, and Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP).

Consultation and engagement activities and materials are described in detail in the Consultation Progress Reports (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). Comments received from participants during consultation and engagement activities will be documented in the Record of Consultation and included in the Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement (EAR/IS). Though technically not part of the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program, information obtained through Indigenous consultation and engagement has been used to inform the Socio-Economic Baseline where applicable.

3.1.2 Indigenous Knowledge and Land and Resource Use Program

For the purposes of the EA/IA, Indigenous Knowledge refers to Indigenous systems of knowledge and cultural practices related to the creation of knowledge based on traditional belief systems, relationships to the environment, and community practices. It is the accumulated and living knowledge built upon the historic experiences of Indigenous Peoples living on the land and adapting to social, economic, environmental, spiritual and political change (Chiefs of Ontario, 2023). It includes knowledge about the natural environment (e.g., locations of caribou seasonal use and calving areas), the relationships between environmental changes and species or ecosystems, and how potential effects to the environment can be avoided or minimized.

Indigenous land and resource use, sometimes described as traditional land use, refers to areas and resources used for traditional purposes when Indigenous Peoples learn and practice their Indigenous Knowledge (Garvin et al., 2001). Indigenous Knowledge can provide a proponent with input to enhance and augment baseline information, assess potential effects on Socio-Economic existing conditions, and to identify measures to mitigate and/or accommodate for those impacts.

The types of information that encompass IKLRU may include but is not limited to the following:

- Sharing of historical, cosmological and spiritual learnings that provide context and direction to the community;
- Physical and cultural heritage of each Indigenous community, including burial sites, values of spiritual, cultural, sacred and/or historical importance and meanings attached to places, plants, animals, objects, beings, or things;

- Areas of Indigenous land and resource use for traditional purposes presently or historically practiced (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing and plant harvesting areas); as defined by location, frequency, duration and/or timing of these activities; types of resources used and their habitats; the quantity and quality of resources; culturally important resources and places they are harvested; access to resources or places used;
- Cultural practices such as resource preparation and use; values associated with, and importance assigned to resources; and
- Knowledge regarding the existing environment and trends within the study area in both past and present, including locations or areas of specific importance for wildlife, fish, and/or vegetation (e.g., calving areas, spawning areas, plants).

The IKLRU program was initiated to engage and collaborate with Indigenous communities and groups on the collection and consideration throughout IKLRU information throughout the EA/IA. IKLRU information may be developed through previously documented work or requires to be collected as part of the Project.

It is important to note that the IKLRU program is being undertaken by the Indigenous communities and organizations/ groups themselves, with capacity support provided through the EA/IA process. As part of this work, the Project Team has developed a proposed validation approach that can be used by the community to verify how the Project Team has interpreted and used information in the EA/IA.

The Project Team will seek to respectfully collaborate with Indigenous communities and organizations/groups on how IKLRU information will be part of the EA/IA. In addition to engaging to collect IKLRU information, the Project Team will seek dialogue on, and validation of, draft EA/IA documentation pertinent to communities' IKLRU information.

To date, several communities have initiated IKLRU studies through the IKLRU program, including Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation. The Project Team will work with communities through a respectful and collaborative process to incorporate information provided by communities, including through consideration of information in developing the Socio-Economic Baseline, and the assessment of potential effects of the Project.

3.1.3 Indigenous Knowledge Validation Approach

Gathering of IKLRU information will be led by each community and organization/group with respect to gathering, documenting and permission of use, as well as validating any IKLRU. Community validation is a process for the community and its leaders and knowledge holders to verify the accuracy, completeness and sensitivity of the IKLRU information that has been collected for a project. This validation step is not only part of respectful relationship but is a recognized expectation under the current regulatory processes. During IKLRU information collection, the community may meet with community members, especially Elders, land users and other Indigenous Knowledge holders, to validate the IKLRU information collected, to discuss, question, add to the information, and verify that the community is comfortable and confident with the accuracy and completeness of the information presented. Further community validation steps may involve the proponent presenting to the community how it has incorporated any IKLRU information received from the community.

Table 3-1 outlines the proposed IKLRU validation approach to be used as a framework for discussion with Indigenous communities and organizations/groups. It sets out the key steps that enable and encourage Indigenous communities and organizations/groups to retain ownership and control of its IKLRU information. The approach involves the review and validation of their IKLRU information collected. The Project Team will confirm that validation takes place before the Project Team analyzes and integrates IKLRU information provided by Indigenous communities and organizations/groups into the EA/IA process.

Table 3-1: Community Collection and Validation of IKLRU Information in the EA/IA Process

Phase	Activity	General Description	Process Step to Build Relationship and Establish Validation
IKLRU Information Collection (This is assumed to be led solely by the community)	1. Study planning and coordination	Indigenous community and Project Team have dialogue on data sharing agreement with proponent, budget and capacity funding, and work plan.	In keeping with its governance protocols and decision-making process, the Indigenous community engages in study and capacity discussions with the Project Team.
	2. Community initiates participation	Indigenous community agrees to participate in the IKLRU program, and to identify knowledge holders that may participate in providing information.	In keeping with its governance protocols and decision-making process, the Indigenous community agrees to collect IKLRU.
	3. Identify knowledge holders	Community identifies knowledge holders to participate in IKLRU information gathering.	The community identifies willing participants, regarded as specialists in traditional ways of life of the community.
	4. Gather and document IKLRU information	IKLRU information is gathered by the community from knowledge holders and captured in confidential draft documentation.	Consent (e.g., a signed form or verbal agreement) is administered by the community to acknowledge the privileged nature of the information being shared.
	5. Knowledge holders review of IKLRU information gathered and validation	IKLRU information that has been documented, is circulated to knowledge holders that participated in the information gathering, and reviewed individually or in a group format, i.e., workshop, to verify the accuracy of the information.	IKLRU information holders are invited by the community to review and comment on draft IKLRU information that has been documented. This information could take the format of mapped information, stories, etc.
	6. Confirmation of IKLRU information for sharing	Community leadership confirms IKLRU information for sharing, following any revisions and additional information received from knowledge holders.	In keeping with community governance protocols, the community confirms IKLRU information to be shared, typically following community leadership review.
IKLRU Information Sharing (This is assumed to be led by the community, and supported by the Project Team)	7. Community shares IKLRU information with Project Team/ Proponent	IKLRU information is shared with the Project Team for consideration in the EA/IA process, including the description of existing conditions, pathways of effects and effects assessment.	Community formally shares IKLRU information with Project Team, under data sharing and confidentiality agreement.
IKLRU Information Analysis and Permission of Use (This is assumed to involve validation of the Project Team's documentation by the community)	8. IKLRU information consideration	In collaboration between the community and the Project Team, IKLRU information is integrated into EA/IA documentation, and draft results circulated to the community for review.	Draft results of IKLRU information consideration circulated to the community for review and input.
	9. Confirmation of IKLRU information for submission	The community grants permission for the use of IKLRU, as presented, in Project documentation.	The community confirms with the Project team the integrated IKLRU information that may be used, as presented, in the Project EA/IA.

3.2 Collection and Analysis of Socio-Economic Baseline Information

Collection of Socio-Economic baseline information involves a mixed methods approach. Mixed methods refer to a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods and associated data collection tools. By combining these methods, a better understanding of issues and complex phenomena can be developed than by either method alone (Creswell and Clark, 2007). This is because quantitative and qualitative methods serve different study purposes and are designed to address different types of research questions and information needs. The quantitative approach allows the Project Team to collect information at a broader scale, on a wide range and number of indicators. The qualitative approach complements the quantitative approach as its purpose is to understand particular topics more in-depth from the perspective of lived experience, and the meanings attached to that experience (Winchester and Rofe, 2010). The Project Team and community facilitators have engaged interested communities where possible, to develop primary data using surveys, interviews and focus groups.

The steps to be undertaken to collect and analyze data for the Socio-Economic Baseline are described in the following sections.

3.2.1 Collection of Secondary Information

Secondary data research and analysis for the Socio-Economic Baseline included collecting and analyzing information from a range of quantitative and qualitative information sources to present a narrative of the existing Socio--Economic conditions of communities in the LSA and RSA.

Desktop research involved compiling and reviewing quantitative information that includes the Census of Population and other sources (listed in **Table 3-3**). Some, though not all, of this Socio-Economic information was disaggregated by gender and other attributes. Desktop research also involved collecting and reviewing, where available and permissible, community websites, and recent community documents such as Webequie First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP), housing plans, and economic development plans.

3.2.1.1 Hierarchy of Economic Data

Due to the varying levels of data available for each community, a hierarchy of data was implemented. This guarantees consistency throughout reporting and a reliable economic model.

When gaps were identified, the following data hierarchy was employed:

- 2021 Census of Population (Statistics Canada, 2023b);
- 2016 Census of Population (Statistics Canada, 2019b);
- Lightcast data[2];
- Official Municipal Forecasts;
- WSR Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey in 2021 (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a);
- WSR Marten Falls First Nation Socio-Economic Survey in 2022 (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a);
- WSR Weenusk First Nation Socio-Economic Survey in 2023 (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a); and
- Webequie Community Well-Being Baseline Study Survey (Webequie First Nation, 2014).

[2] Lightcast products provide detailed information about occupations, skills in demand, and career pathways, providing labor market insight to employers, educational institutions, and government agencies.

3.2.1.2 Economic Forecasts

To align the baseline data with the temporal boundaries defined for the Socio-Economic Baseline, several variables were forecasted beyond the data provided through key data sources, mainly the 2016 and 2021 Census of Population (Statistics Canada 2019b, 2023b) and Lightcast Forecasts were derived by calculating the Compound Annual Growth Rate, the mean annual growth rate over a specified period of time longer than one year, between data points. The calculated CAGR was then applied to the data to forecast economic variables to 2043.

3.2.1.3 Limitations

A number of key informational gaps exist with respect to the socio-economic environment that contribute to uncertainty:

- Statistics Canada Census of Population:
  - For privacy reasons, the Census of Population does not always publish full data sets to protect the identities of respondents;
  - Undercounting within Indigenous communities is a common complaint of the Census; and
  - Other errors likely to occur within the Census of are coverage errors, non-response errors, response errors, processing errors, and sampling errors.
- Skills and Qualification of Labour Force:
  - Detailed data for occupation of employment, employment ratios, and other labour force related indicators were not available for all communities; and
  - Due to the availability and level of detail of the data available, it is not possible to describe the current level of skills, training, and qualifications of the labour force.

3.2.2 Primary Data Collection Program

In addition to seeking input from Indigenous communities, government regulators, and other stakeholders and interest groups on valued components, indicators and spatial boundaries, Indigenous communities and organizations/groups were also invited to participate in the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program which has included:

- Community surveys: The survey format (i.e., online, in-person surveyors, and community sessions) and the survey content (i.e., questions posed to community members) tailored to the needs of the community as needed.
- Focus groups: Diverse subsections of the community participating in small group discussions related to the existing conditions in the community.
- Knowledge holder interviews: A range of community representatives providing key first-hand knowledge and insights about community through interviews.

3.3 Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) is a required analytical approach for any projects operating under Section 22 of the IA Act and is considered part of this EA/IA process. GBA+ recognizes that historical and current power structures (e.g., laws, policies, governments and other institutions) have shaped society and created inequalities. This is especially important with respect to legacies of colonialism and the impacts on Indigenous Peoples, and in particular, Indigenous women and Two-Spirited people.

In the context of the EA/IA, GBA+ is intended as means to understand and assess how potential project effects could disproportionately impact more vulnerable groups including women, youth, two-spirited and gender diverse persons, disabled persons and Elders, with respect to the Project. It is particularly important to consider how the impacts, benefits, and risks of the Project could be unequally distributed across diverse groups within a community, and to develop targeted plans and mechanisms that can be put in place to avoid and mitigate impacts, and/or compensate these groups.

GBA+ is not a method unto itself, but an approach that is associated with a variety of standard quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. GBA+ is considered across the Socio-Economic Baseline valued components and indicators described in **Section 3.4** and integrated into the data collection and analysis methods described in **Section 3.2**.

Quantitative secondary data collection and analysis for GBA+ focuses on disaggregating population and demographics data from Census of Population and other sources, in order to understand the characteristics of the community, represented by diverse groups.

Qualitative primary data collection and analysis for GBA+ focused on seeking input from diverse groups about their experiences and characteristics of the community, as well as conditions and services available to diverse groups.

3.3.1 Qualitative data collection and analysis

Qualitative data is non-numerical and often consists of in-depth information in the form of words that can provide insight on the behaviours, attitudes, and beliefs of people. Examples of qualitative data include interview transcripts, observational notes, and meeting notes. Qualitative data analysis consists of reading information in search of themes to develop categories or codes, which allows for understanding and exploring patterns in perspectives and social structures to extract meaning. Qualitative data analysis can help to uncover unexpected information that cannot be identified through quantitative (numerical) data. Coding is an important process in qualitative data analysis, as it allows for dividing large amounts of information into categories that make it easier to understand and identify key themes emerging from the data. Codes are labels for topics identified in the review of information (Wong, 2008).

Codes can be created deductively and inductively. Deductive coding is based on previous knowledge and experience of the individual performing the coding, whereby codes are created prior to analyzing information based on anticipated areas of importance. Inductive coding is based on reviewing qualitative data first and creating codes as areas of importance emerge during the review (Daniels, 2018). The first round of coding both primary and secondary data focused on coding information as it pertained to different identity categories. The objective of coding for identity categories was to identify information and concerns as they pertain to diverse sub-populations who may experience existing disparities and/or who may be at risk of experiencing disproportionate effects of the Project. Identity categories are not exclusive and were subject to change and expand or contract as coding occurred. The identity categories/codes used at the outset of analysis are displayed in **Table 3-2**.

The second round of coding primary and secondary data focused on coding information as it pertained to socio-economic conditions. Codes were identified both deductively, based on previous experience and anticipated areas of importance, and inductively, based on data reviewed to date. The codes identified were structured and defined in a hierarchy, from general topic area to sub-codes of the topic.

Information was coded to current needs and demand if describing the existing state of a topic in Webequie First Nation and neighbouring LSA communities, whereas information was coded to potential needs and demand if describing concerns expressed on the topic relative to potential Project impacts on Webequie First Nation and neighbouring LSA communities.

Table 3-2: Socio-Economic Valued Components and Indicators

Identity Category	Identity Sub-Categories
Gender	Female, Women, Male, Men, Two Spirit, Transgender, Non-Binary, Transexual, Intersex
Indigenous	Indigenous, First Nation, Aboriginal, Métis, Two Spirit
Disability	Disability, Physical Disability, Mental Disability
Young People	Youth, Adolescent, Child, Teen, Kid
Old People	Elder, Senior

Qualitative data analysis was conducted through the use of NVivo, a qualitative data analysis software. NVivo allows for qualitative data to be coded, sorted, and retrieved more quickly and easily than manual coding (i.e., using colored pens on paper to identify different topics) (Wong, 2008).

3.3.2 Summary of Primary data collection and analysis

GBA+ analysis of the primary socio-economic data (collected by SNC Lavalin) resulted in the following:

- Fifteen knowledge holder interviews were conducted with knowledge holders, individuals possessing special knowledge or information to contribute to the WSR Socio-Economic Baseline, from October 2021 to February 2023 in Webequie First Nation;
- Four Focus Group Discussions with women, men, youth, elders were held in May 2022 and February 2023 in Webequie First Nation; and
- Three different community surveys were conducted, including a Socio-Economic Survey (Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation and Weenusk First Nation), a Community Health Survey (Intrinsik, 2023), and a Country Foods Consumption and Use Survey.

The primary and secondary data sources analyzed through NVivo included 14 knowledge holder interviews, four focus groups, and results from three different community surveys.

Webequie First Nation completed 238 Socio-Economic Surveys. The Socio-Economic survey was administered from 2021 to 2023 using a combination of in-person and online methods, including at community meetings, frequently visited locations within the community (e.g., at the community store and band office), and/or through Survey Monkey. The Socio-Economic survey was written in plain language and included questions regarding demographics (age, gender, income, education, employment), housing, social services, safety, and community cohesion. GBA+ analysis of these Socio-Economic surveys resulted in the identification of unique characteristics of subpopulations and indicated as appropriate in this report.

3.3.3 Secondary data collection and analysis

The secondary sources analyzed through NVivo included four Webequie First Nation reports:

- Webequie First Nation Community Well-Being Baseline Study (Webequie First Nation, 2014);
- Webequie First Nation On Reserve Land Use Plan (Webequie First Nation, 2019);
- Webequie First Nation Draft Community Based Land Use Plan (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025); and
- Webequie First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (Webequie First Nation, 2021).

A literature search and review were conducted for the GBA+ assessment to better understand the potential effects of the WSR Project on diverse sub-populations and to propose mitigation and enhancement measures to address potential effects. The literature review focused on project studies and academic sources which described projects with similar characteristics and themes, such as temporary construction camps and all-season access roads, and their subsequent effects on diverse sub-populations, particularly Indigenous women and youth. The review also included other key information sources such as the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Volume 1a (NIMMIWG, 2019a) and Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRCC, 2015).

3.3.4 Limitations

Due to the availability of data and their proximity to the Project, the GBA+ assessment primarily focuses on Webequie First Nation. Data related to other communities in the LSA, the RSA, Ontario, and Canada may be included where relevant for comparison. It is acknowledged that effects of the Project may also be experienced by vulnerable groups residing outside of Webequie First Nation and therefore it is recommended that the proposed mitigation, enhancement, and monitoring measures be assessed for broader application to the LSA.

Limitations of primary data collection through knowledge holder interviews, focus groups, and surveys include that the information provided by participants reflects the lived experiences and perspectives of the participants, which may not reflect the perspectives of all residents in the LSA and RSA.

Literature collected through desktop research uses information from publicly available studies and sources to incorporate the best available knowledge at the time of writing. Some studies and secondary sources may be out of date and are subjective to who wrote and published the source.

The GBA+ assessment was completed as a desktop exercise based on primary and secondary sources mentioned above. Findings have not been validated with the Webequie First Nation or other communities considered in the assessment. It is recommended that engagement with communities on the outcomes of GBA+ assessment report be carried out as best practice to ensure that proposed mitigation and enhancement measures suit community needs (IAAC 2021).

3.4 Valued Components and Indicators

Valued components are human and physical aspects of the environment that people consider important from Indigenous, public, and/or scientific perspectives, therefore warranting detailed consideration in an EA/IA (Noble and Smith, 2015). The Socio-Economic Baseline is focused on valued components that have social and economic importance to Indigenous communities and organizations/groups, the public, federal and provincial authorities, and stakeholders, and have the potential to be changed as a result of the Project. Socio-Economic valued components have been identified in the TISG and ToR and are, in part, based on what Indigenous communities and organizations/groups, the public and stakeholders identify as important to them in the EA/IA process to date for the Project.

Indicators are metrics used to measure change (qualitatively or quantitatively) in the existing conditions of a valued component. **Table 3-3** presents a list of valued components and indicators, reflecting input received during the WSR engagement and consultation activities undertaken to date, such as input into the TISG and ToR. Indicators for which GBA+ has been applied are also identified in this table. Indigenous communities and organizations/groups, the public, federal and provincial agencies, and stakeholders have been consulted and have had the opportunity to provide input and feedback to help further refine the valued components and indicators.

Table 3-3 also includes the data sources used to collect baseline information for each valued component. The list of sources presented in **Table 3-3** is not exhaustive. A full list of data sources will be provided in the EAR/IS once baseline information collection has concluded.

Table 3-3: Socio-Economic Valued Components and Indicators

Domain	Valued Component	Indicators	Data Sources
Societal context	Social Environment	▪ Population and Demographics: ▫ Population overview, including gender and age; ▫ Indigenous identity; ▫ Languages; and ▫ Mobility and migration. ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪ Statistics Canada Census Profile 2016 (Statistics Canada, 2019a) and Census Profile 2021 (Statistics Canada, 2023a). ▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population (Statistics Canada, 2023b).
		▪ Housing and Accommodations: ▫ Housing Availability: - Total occupied private dwellings; - People per household; - Rental housing; - New housing growth; and - Plans for land development. ▪ Housing Affordability: ▫ Housing Sales; ▫ Average cost of house; ▫ Average rent; and ▫ Households 'spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' or 'not suitable' or 'major repairs needed'. ▪ Housing Condition: ▫ Private dwellings by period of construction; and ▫ Private households by housing suitability including overcrowding and need of repairs. ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population (Statistics Canada, 2023b). ▪ Municipal Planning/Economic Development Documents. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous community engagement, knowledge holder interviews, surveys, engagement, local businesses). ▪ Academic research.
		▪ Community Services: ▫ Demand for community services; and ▫ Supply and capacity of community services. ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪ Indigenous service and local service providers. ▪ Online service portals, such as 211 Ontario North. ▪ Community and municipal websites. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous, knowledge holder, surveys, engagement, local business).

Domain	Valued Component	Indicators	Data Sources
	Social Environment	▪ Education, Training and Traditional Knowledge: ▫ Demand for community education and training services; ▫ Supply and capacity of community education and training services; and ▫ Learning of Traditional Knowledge, as equal of importance to western education and training. Traditional Knowledge is sought by community members, whether it be through programs or at a grassroots level. ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪ Local service providers. ▪ Online service portals, such as 211 Ontario North. ▪ Community and municipal websites. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous community engagement, knowledge holder interviews, surveys, engagement, local businesses). ▪ Local Anishinabek and Inninwuk Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
		▪ Emergency and Protective Services: ▫ Demand for community emergency and protective services; and ▫ Supply and capacity of community emergency and protective services.	▪ Local service providers. ▪ Online service portals, such as 211 Ontario North. ▪ Community municipal websites. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous community engagement, knowledge holder interviews, surveys, engagement, local businesses).
		▪ Community Infrastructure (e.g., community roads, electrical power system, water, wastewater, solid waste and telecommunications): ▫ Demand for community services and/or infrastructure; and ▫ Supply and capacity of community services and/or infrastructure.	▪ Local service providers. ▪ Online service portals, such as 211 Ontario North. ▪ Community and municipal websites. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous community engagement, knowledge holder interviews, surveys, engagement, local businesses).
		▪ Transportation: ▫ Road Transportation: - Change in traffic volume (autos, trucks) on existing road connection (winter) to provincial road network; and - Change in opportunities for travel and road use. ▫ Air Transportation: - Demand for air and shipping services.	▪ Knowledge holder interviews. ▪ Social surveys. ▪ Consultation and engagement activities. ▪ Local service providers (i.e., winter road). ▪ Industry reports. ▪ Academic research.
		▪ Community Well-Being and Safety: ▫ Social Cohesion and Culture: - Quantity of social connections; and - Quality of social connections. ▫ Participation in social and/or cultural events: - Participation rate (by event);	▪ Social surveys. ▪ Focus groups. ▪ Knowledge holder interviews. ▪ Police reports. ▪ Social service reports. ▪ Non-Government Organization and Interest group reports.

Domain	Valued Component	Indicators	Data Sources
		- Number of new (first-time) attendees to regularly held (e.g., annual) events; and - Total number of social and/or cultural events held. ▫ Safety: - Perceptions of safety; - Traffic safety; - Domestic violence rate; - Sexual assault rate; and - Physical assault rate. ▫ Nuisance: - Air quality (e.g., dust); and - Noise levels. ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪ Municipal, provincial and Indigenous government websites, plans and reports. ▪ EA air and noise studies. ▪ Academic research.
Economic	Regional and Local Economy	▪ Labour Force and Employment – Labour Force Characteristics: ▫ Employment age population; ▫ Labour force participation; ▫ Unemployment; ▫ Barriers to employment; ▫ Time spent on unpaid domestic work; and ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population. ▪ Lightcast.* ▪ Economic development reports and plans. ▪ Government documents. ▪ Skills inventories. ▪ Primary data (focus groups, surveys, knowledge holder interviews).
		▪ Labour Force and Employment – Education and Training Attainment: ▫ Highest certificate, diploma, or degree; ▫ Field of study; ▫ Occupations; ▫ Training opportunities; and ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population. ▪ Lightcast.* ▪ Economic development reports and plans. ▪ Government documents. ▪ Skills inventories. ▪ Primary data (focus groups, surveys, knowledge holder interviews).
		▪ Labour Force and Employment – Labour Income: ▫ Income; and ▫ Sources of income. ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population. ▪ Lightcast.* ▪ Economic development reports and plans. ▪ Secondary data collected from government documents/research. ▪ Skills inventories. ▪ Primary data (focus groups, surveys, knowledge holder interviews).
		▪ Overall Economy – Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	▪ Government of Ontario economic statistics.

Domain	Valued Component	Indicators	Data Sources
		▪ Overall Economy – Cost of Living: ▫ Consumer Price Index; ▫ Low Income Cut-Off Indicators; ▫ Percentage of residents spending over 30% of income on shelter; ▫ Average retail prices for select products; and ▪ Average annual household spending.	▪ Lightcast.* ▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population. ▪ Secondary data collected from government documents/research. ▪ Municipal, Planning/ Economic Development, Tourism Documents ▪ Primary data (Indigenous, knowledge holder, surveys, engagement, local business).
		▪ Overall Economy – Economic Development: ▫ Economic development; ▫ Capacity; ▫ Gaps; ▫ Major projects; ▫ New projects; ▫ Closures; ▫ Equipment availability; ▫ Energy profile; ▫ Access to capital; and ▪ Trends.	▪ Lightcast.* ▪ Secondary data collected from government documents/research. ▪ Municipal, Planning/Economic Development, Tourism Documents. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous, knowledge holder, surveys, engagement, local business).
		▪ Overall Economy – Traditional Indigenous Economy: ▫ Traditional Indigenous economy – commercial; ▫ Traditional Indigenous economy – non-commercial; and ▪ Potentially affected fisheries.	▪ Secondary data collected from government documents/research ▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous community engagement, knowledge holder interviews, surveys, engagement, local businesses).
		▪ Overall Economy – Access, ownership, and use of lands: ▫ Municipal zoning; ▫ Land area (square kilometres [km^2]); ▫ Land-use planning documents from MNRF, Indigenous communities and municipalities (if relevant); ▫ Plans for land development; and ▪ Compatibility with existing and proposed land uses.	▪ Secondary data collected from government documents/research. ▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population. ▪ Spatial data. ▪ Land use plans.
	Regional and Local Economy	▪ Business Environment – Main Employers: ▫ Key industries (jobs, wages, and sales by industry). ▫ Main employers; and ▪ Local construction businesses.	▪ Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population. ▪ Lightcast.* ▪ Municipal, Planning/Economic Development, Tourism Documents. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous, knowledge holder, surveys, engagement, local business).

Domain	Valued Component	Indicators	Data Sources
		▪ Business Environment – Local Economy: ▫ Household spending patterns; ▫ Industry supply chain; ▫ Industry subsidies; ▫ Economic leakage; and ▪ Market trends.	▪ Lightcast.* ▪ Secondary data collected from government documents/research. ▪ Municipal, Planning/Economic Development, Tourism Documents. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous, knowledge holder, surveys, engagement, local business).
		▪ Business Environment – Mining, Aggregate, and Forestry Activity: ▫ Size of industry; ▫ Supply chain; ▫ Industry projects; ▫ Economic Development plans; ▫ Active mines; and ▪ Area (ha) of significant aggregate deposits affected.	▪ Lightcast.* ▪ Secondary data collected from government documents/research. ▪ Land use plans. ▪ Primary data (Indigenous, knowledge holder, surveys, engagement, local business).
		▪ Public and Indigenous community finances: ▫ Tax base; ▫ Indigenous community funding/grants; ▫ Revenues (taxes, transfers, grants etc.); and ▪ Public expenditures.	▪ Crown-Indigenous-Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) First Nations Profiles. ▪ Secondary data collected from government documents/research. ▪ Municipal, Planning/Economic Development, Tourism Documents. ▪ Proactive Disclosure of Grants and Contributions – Government of Canada.
Land and Resource Use	Indigenous Current and Historical Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes	▪ Changes to availability of lands and resources for traditional purposes. ▪ Loss of or change to the number of sites and areas expressed in hectares (ha) used for traditional activities (hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering): ▫ Location/number/area of fish harvesting areas affected; ▫ Location/number/area (ha) of seasonal hunting areas affected; ▫ Location/number/area (ha) of wildlife (e.g. moose/*Moonz*) mating, breeding or nursery areas affected; ▫ Location/number/area (ha) of plants harvested for human consumption and /or medicinal purposes affected; and ▫ Location and number of traplines affected.	▪ Indigenous consultation and Indigenous Knowledge. ▪ Community-based land use planning.

Domain	Valued Component	Indicators	Data Sources
		▪ Changes in preferred harvested species. ▪ Changes to, or restrictions on, preferred harvesting methods. ▪ Changes to access/routes to harvested species, including use of navigable waterways. ▪ Changes to distance for harvesting preferred species. ▪ Changes to timing/seasonality for harvesting preferred species. ▪ Location/number/Type of cultural keystone species affected. ▪ Changes to experience of place and being on the land (sensory, aesthetics, connections). ▪ GBA+ disaggregated where possible.	▪
	Cultural Continuity (ability to practice and transmit cultural traditions including historical disruptions where Indigenous peoples have a desire to reinvigorate a cultural tradition)	▪ Loss of or change to quantity (number or ha) or quality of culturally and spiritually important sites and areas (e.g., ceremonial sites, sacred areas, teaching sites). ▪ Changes to access/routes to culturally and spiritually important sites and areas including use of navigable waterways. ▪ Changes to distance to culturally and spiritually important sites and areas. ▪ Sufficiency of lands and resources for cultural practices. ▪ Changes to cultural traditions or practices.	▪ Indigenous consultation and Indigenous Knowledge. ▪ Community-based land use planning.
	Impacts on the Exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights	▪ Changes to rights related to current and historical use of lands and resources for traditional purposes and activities. ▪ Changes to rights related to cultural continuity. ▪ Changes to rights related to socio-economic, health and wellbeing conditions. ▪ Changes to rights related to self-determination and self-governance.	▪ Indigenous consultation and Indigenous Knowledge.
Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use	Land Use Compatibility and Stewardship	▪ Compatibility with existing and proposed land uses.	▪ Spatial data on existing planned land uses. ▪ Provincial Policy Statement 2020 (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2020); and Growth Plan for Northern Ontario (Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, 2011). ▪ Community-based land use planning.

Domain	Valued Component	Indicators	Data Sources
	Commercial and Industrial	▪ Location/number type of industrial and commercial activities.	▪ Economic development reports and plans. ▪ Government documents. ▪ Primary data (focus groups, surveys, knowledge holder interviews).
	Recreation and Tourism (camps, trails, waterways, etc.)	▪ Location/number/type of activities or users. ▪ Land and waterway disruption and access. ▪ Resource availability of select species (fish, wildlife) or their habitat.	▪ IKLRU studies. ▪ Indigenous engagement and consultation. ▪ Business Operators. ▪ Community-based land use planning.
	Provincial and Federal Parks, Ontario ANSI and other Protected Areas Transportation	▪ Total number and total disturbed area (hectares (ha)) of Provincial Parks and Protected Areas.	▪ Indigenous consultation and Indigenous Knowledge. ▪ Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) reports. ▪ Business Operators. ▪ Community-based land use planning.

Notes: * Lightcast products provide detailed information about occupations, skills in demand, and career pathways, providing labor market insight to employers, educational institutions, and government agencies.
ha = hectares.
km^2 = square kilometres

4 Community Setting

First Nation communities have existed long before Europeans arrived in Canada and have an extensive history with the land. After contact with European settlers, many First Nation communities experienced significant changes to their way of living due to socio-economic changes (e.g., fur trading, acts and treaties) (Government of Canada, 2017).

Indigenous communities in the LSA and RSA for the WSR Socio-Economic Environment baseline are Anishiniimowin, Anishinabe and Mushkeego First Nations and Métis Peoples with traditional territories that cover the lands. First Nations are predominantly located north of the provincial highway system, and accessible only by air and by winter road. Other First Nations and Métis, located further south, are serviced by the provincial highway system. All participating First Nations communities are located within the Treaty No. 9 territory, except for Long Lake #58 First Nation, which lies within the geographic boundaries of the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850, and the Métis Nation of Ontario, which is not part of Treaty No. 9.

This section provides an overview of the communities identified within the spatial boundaries the Socio-Economic baseline conditions. Information on communities provided in this section include historical and cultural community background, and applicable history with previous developers. This information will provide a better understanding of community relationships and opinions on natural resource exploration and development projects, and will be used to inform the analysis undertaken in the EA/IA.

In this section, communities within the Socio-Economic Environment LSA include Webequie First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation. Communities within the Socio-Economic Environment RSA include Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakapewin First Nation, and Wunnumin Lake First Nation. The Socio-Economic Environment RSA also includes the Township of Pickle Lake, Municipality of Sioux Lookout, City of Thunder Bay, Municipality of Greenstone and City of Timmins.

4.1 Local Study Area

In the context of the EA/IA, each community within the Socio-Economic Environment LSA, will be described to establish existing or baseline conditions. The existing or baseline conditions will be used to assess the potential changes the Project that may have largely direct, and immediate indirect effects on the local environment in the EAR/IS. The following section provides a description of the location and reserve lands for each community located in the Socio-Economic Environment LSA.

4.1.1 Webequie First Nation

4.1.1.1 Community Overview

The Webequie First Nation is a fly-in Anishinaabemowin (Oji-Cree) community located in Treaty No. 9 territory in Northwestern Ontario, approximately 525 km northeast of the City of Thunder Bay, as shown on **Figure 1-1**. The community is located on the northern peninsula of Eastwood Island on Winisk Lake in the upper reaches of the Winisk River. The community is the Proponent of the WSR Project and is undertaking the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Impact Assessment (IA) to identify and assess the potential effects of the Project, and to identify measures to

mitigate impacts and to optimize benefits, as part of regulatory approvals for the all-season road. In the context of the EA/IA, the community is within the LSA.

Webequie First Nation's homeland makes up part of the traditional Oji-Cree territories that are located in the central expanse of northern Ontario. The traditional language spoken in Webequie is Oji-Cree, a dialect of Anishinaabe with influences from the Cree language and is considered a distinct language and culture (CBC, 2023a).

Webequie is an Ojibway word with the meaning "shaking head from side to side". The community received the name many years ago and has a special meaning to its people (Webequie First Nation, 2023a). According to the community the origin is as follows (Webequie First Nation, 2023a):

> "The story goes, that early one morning a long time ago, a community member was paddling his canoe out onto the lake. He noticed a family of mergansers attempting to take flight and running across the calm surface. It was a very calm day, and there was no wind to help them get airborne. In their frantic attempt to get some lift, the man observed they were shaking their heads from side to side, looking for a breeze. This is how our name originated, and why we have a merganser as part of our community logo".

Webequie First Nation is a Nishnawbe Aski Nation (Treaty No. 9) First Nation (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, 2023). Treaty No. 9 was first signed in 1905-1906 and adhesions signed in 1929-1930. At the time, the Crown included clans representing the Webequie community with the Eabametoong (Fort Hope Band) (Archaeological Services Inc., 2021). In the post-Treaty years, Webequie First Nation was not recognized as having Band status until 1985 when this was received from the federal government. In 2001, the community finally received its current reserve status.

Webequie First Nation is self-described as a growing community, with a Registered Population of 987 as of February 2024, with 361 members on own reserve, 11 members on other reserves, 467 members on own crown land, 02 members on other band crown land, 01 member on no band crown land and 145 members off reserve (Government of Canada, 2024a). As noted, it is a fly-in community, with no spring, summer, or fall road access. The Webequie First Nation is currently serviced by all-season Visual Flight Rules (VFR) airport, and a winter road, which branches off the Northern Ontario Resource Trail (NORT), 250 km northeast of the Township of Pickle Lake, providing road access for only a brief period in the winter months. First Nation fly-in communities have observed that winter road seasons are getting shorter, and this is a major concern for shipping in supplies (CBC, 2023b).

Surrounded by the Winisk Lake on the northern peninsula of Eastwood Island, the community is situated with residences along a main road that loops around the centrally located Band administration building and Band Hall, the Simon Jacob Education Centre and the Webequie Business Centre, which hosts amenities and services. Additional supporting infrastructure provides power, waste and water facilities, located adjacent to the community on Eastwood Island.

Webequie First Nation indicates it has inherent right to self-governance and self-determination (Webequie First Nation, 2023b). First Nations such as Webequie have elected local governance. The elected Chief and Councillors are the recognized political representatives and leadership of the community. Webequie is committed to preserving its freedom, to live their lives as they choose, and to be proud of its heritage, and the strong and thriving community that has been built (Webequie First Nation, 2023b).

Webequie First Nation has a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief, one Head Councillor and five Councillors elected every two years (CIRNAC, 2023a). Custom election processes follow community's election code that provides the rules under which Chiefs and Councillors are chosen for those First Nations who are not under the *Indian Act* election rules. These codes are often unique to the specific community (ISC, 2023a). The next election will be in February 2024.

Webequie First Nation has a rich history of close relations and family ties with neighbouring communities. The community is formally affiliated with political territorial organizations with common goals and interests. Webequie First Nation is affiliated with the following organizations:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
- Matawa First Nations
- Chiefs of Ontario; and
- The Assembly of First Nations.

4.1.1.2 Community History

The people of Webequie First Nation are among the descendants of the original peoples that have inhabited lands and waters within the Hudson Plains and Boreal Shield ecoregions of Canada (AAFC, 2023), where the proposed Project will be situated. Today, this region lies within the approximately northern third of the province of Ontario ("northern Ontario"). The Webequie Peoples (Webequie Inninuwuk) have lived according to their Anishinaabe and Cree customs and beliefs and practiced their way of life within their traditional territories for countless generations (Webequie First Nation, 2021).

Throughout generations, it is understood that the Webequie Peoples and peoples of other neighbouring First Nations were traditionally mobile people, sustainably utilizing the regions by land and water, according to the seasons, and traditional hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, meeting and trading places, and other social, cultural and spiritual customs (Archaeological Services Inc., 2021).

Trading with Europeans occurred initially at the mouth of the Albany River at the HBC post and to the south with the Northwest Company post at Fort William. Later, HBC controlled inland posts, and families in the area tended to settle near the posts (Archaeological Services Inc., 2021).

As noted in **Section 1.2**, the arrival of Europeans created changes for Indigenous Nations. Following the establishment of Euro-Canadian colonial systems, changes were imposed on the generations that followed including completion of the Canadian-Pacific Railway in 1885, which provided Euro-Canadian settlers increased access to the lands and waters in the north, and led to increased mineral prospecting, threatened hunting and trapping resources, along with sickness and hunger (Ministry of Public and Business Delivery Service, 2023). It was under these conditions that the James Bay Treaty (Treaty No. 9) was signed in 1905 (plus the 1929 adhesion) as an agreement between the Ojibway (Anishinaabe), the Cree (including Mushkegowuk) and the Crown (represented by Canada and Ontario). Around this time, the Webequie community settled on Eastwood Island on Winisk Lake in northern Ontario. This location was originally a summer gathering site for family groups that lived in and used the broad surrounding area throughout the year, as it was known throughout the region to be an excellent hunting and fishing area (Webequie First Nation, 2021).

The decision was made by Webequie Elders and families from all directions in the area, and through traditional knowledge and spiritual guidance, that the Eastwood Island community settlement location was identified as a place for the community to live together. This area, and the decision made by the community represents the core of Webequie's Three-Tier Model (Webequie First Nation, 2021). **Section 4.1.1.3** describes the Three-Tier Model.

According to interviews with Webequie First Nation community members, "when other people arrived in this area, they made mistakes about who the Webequie Inninuwuk were. During the Treaty No. 9 process, Treaty Commissioners wrongly assumed that the people of Webequie belonged to the community of Eabametoong First Nation (known at the time as the Fort Hope Indian Band), located approximately 160 km to the southeast of the Webequie community. Because of this, Webequie residents were documented as being Fort Hope Band members, even though [the Webequie peoples] occupied their homeland for hundreds of years. This meant that community leaders had to fight for decades to correct this devastating error" (Webequie First Nation, 2021).

In the 1960's, there was increased pressure for tourism on the Winisk River. In response, Ontario created the Winisk River Provincial Park (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). This encroached on Webequie's exercise of inherent rights to the use of traditional lands and waters, as well as to pursue economic and community development goals.

It was not until 1985 that the federal government recognized Webequie as a distinct Band and allocated it Band Registration number 240 (Webequie First Nation, 2019). However, Webequie was recognized as a settlement, and did not have reserve lands allocated officially, and having a Band Registration number did not give Webequie reserve status, or the many associated benefits. Webequie continued to pursue reserve lands, which were finally granted in 2001 (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

4.1.1.3 Community Values and Aspirations

The Webequie Anishininniwuk have a traditional land use system that goes back several generations according to Elders. The inherent responsibilities are embedded in Indigenous Knowledge, philosophies and wisdom passed down and given to the Webequie peoples by the Creator, according to Elders (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

Elders have indicated that before Treaty No. 9 was signed, the older generation had foreseen the reserve system, that the community would be asked to settle in one location and compelled to live in a permanent community reserve community. This was recognized to be at odds with the traditional way of life of the Anishinaabe, who were highly mobile, and maintained a sacred connection with a large tract of ancestral lands, in order to sustain themselves (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

The Webequie Anishininniwuk Elders were able to conceptualize how to secure the continuity of its traditional way of life and relationship with its ancestral lands while being confined to the reserve, and using resources in a sustainable, responsible and equitable manner to protect the health and well-being of future generations. The Three-Tier model has continued to guide this concept and approach to planning and decision making (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

The Three-Tier model notes Webequie stewardship responsibilities, as part of the Creator's natural laws, are to be carried forward in planning and decision-making processes. It offers a model for respectful relationships with neighbouring communities, government and industry (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

It offers a path for respectful relationships with neighboring communities, government and third parties based on mutual benefit for all people (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). Today, the Three-Tier model is described in terms of planning for the Reserve Land Base, the Cultural Land Base and the Economic Land Base (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

Through the CCP process, Webequie has described the following community values (Webequie First Nation, 2021):

> *"Webequie is a resilient, culturally vibrant, healthy, holistic, and sustainable community. We harmonize traditional and modern knowledge, and the inherited teachings from our Elders, which reflect the gifts of Creator. With this Vision in mind, we will also work together to:*

- Provide love and support for each other, on our healing path;
- Harmonize the two worlds we live in; using both modern and traditional knowledge culture and language to make the best for our community; and
- Act in our inherited stewardship responsibilities to sustain ourselves, share our resources, protect our livelihood for generations to come, and maintain our relationship with the land."

4.1.2 Attawapiskat First Nation

4.1.2.1 Community Overview

Attawapiskat First Nation is a fly-in Mushkegowuk (Cree) Nation in Treaty No. 9 territory in northwestern Ontario, located 800 km northeast of the City of Thunder Bay, and 330 km east of Webequie First Nation in Northern Ontario, surrounded by the Unorganized Kenora District.

Attawapiskat is home to the James Bay Cree – also known as Mushkegowuk Cree and Omushkegowuk Cree, western James Bay, west-coast, Swampy, and Hudson Bay Lowland Cree. The Swampy Cree language is Indigenous to this area (Attawapiskat Education Authority, 2023). The community is the most-northern remote link destination on the 310 km winter road from Moosonee (The Winter Road Company, 2023). It is situated approximately 160 km north of Moosonee, and near the mouth of the Attawapiskat River, roughly 10 km west of where the river empties into James Bay. In the context of the EA/IA, the community is within the LSA.

Attawapiskat means “people of the parting of the rocks” in Swampy Cree language, from the limestone island formations at the mouth of the Attawapiskat River (Reuters, 2016).

Attawapiskat is a Nishnawbe Aski Nation (Treaty No. 9) First Nation. In 1930, an adhesion to Treaty No. 9 provided a reserve for the Attawapiskat First Nation. The Treaty adhesion set aside Attawapiskat Indian Reserve 91 on the Ekwan River, a parallel river north of the Attawapiskat River, which drains into James Bay, totalling 27,040.1 ha. In time, it was decided by local leaders to establish the community in its present location on the Attawapiskat River instead. This was due to an existing trading post and better access to James Bay shipping routes from this location. The new reserve, which contains 235.8 ha, was then numbered Attawapiskat Indian Reserve 91A (CIRNAC, 2023b).

Attawapiskat First Nation has a Registered Population of 3,737 as of February 2024, with 1,998 members living on reserve, 88 members on other reserves, 26 members on own crown land, and 1,625 members living off reserve (Government of Canada, 2024b). It is a fly-in community, serviced by a VFR all-season airport. A temporary seasonal road constructed each winter, connects the community to other towns and communities along the shore of James Bay including Kashechewan First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Moose Factory First Nation and the Town of Moosonee. As noted above, First Nation fly-in communities have observed that winter road seasons are getting shorter, and this is a major concern for shipping in supplies (CBC, 2023b).

Attawapiskat First Nation has a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief and twelve Councillors elected every three years (CIRNAC, 2023b). The next election will be in August 2025.

The community is formally affiliated with the following political territorial organizations:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
- Mushkegowuk Council; and
- Chiefs of Ontario.

4.1.2.2 Community History

The people of Attawapiskat First Nation are Mushkegowuk Cree Peoples and are among the First Peoples of the region (Archaeological Services Inc., 2021). Traditionally the Attawapiskat Cree have hunted, fished, and trapped to support themselves, and moved their camps seasonally in pursuit of game.

European colonization included establishment of the first permanent Christian church in 1893 (Archaeological Services Inc., 2021). The HBC established a trading post near the church in 1901. Additional trading posts were established throughout Attawapiskat’s traditional territory to increase opportunities for trading with family groups further away from the original trading post (Cummins, 1992).

4.1.2.3 Community Values and Aspirations

Protection of their traditional way of life and protection of water is a primary interest to the Attawapiskat First Nation People (Koostachin, 2005). Water is a sacred part of Attawapiskat ceremonies (Koostachin, 2005). Attawapiskat First Nation is one of 10 northern First Nations who launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023). The other communities included in the lawsuit are Apitipi Anicinapek Nation, Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation. They have requested that the Canadian government be barred from making any decisions about how land could be used in the Ring of Fire for mining and other purposes without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centres on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written promises of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The First Nations assert that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023). Attawapiskat First Nation expressed concerns about the Project regarding adequate consultation, regulatory process and cumulative effects on its community (Attawapiskat First Nation, 2021).

The initial Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) between Attawapiskat First Nation and De Beers Canada promised numerous benefits, including training, employment, business opportunities, environmental management, and financial compensation (Canada Mining Journal, 2005). However, after the closure of the Victor diamond mine, the promised prosperity did not materialize for the community. Attawapiskat First Nation suffered from persistent poverty, unemployment, and deteriorating infrastructure, dumping sites, while the revenues generated by the mine were disproportionately low. As a result, the Attawapiskat people have lost trust in future projects entering their community, given the unfulfilled commitments and lack of equitable benefits from the previous agreement, in combination with issues for Ring of Fire mining plans and projects, that may affect their environment, economy, culture and climate (SP The Bullet, 2020; Sierra Club Canada Foundation National Office, 2021). Additional ongoing issues of lack of housing, potable water quality, sewage, lack of basic infrastructure, have compounded onto the set of problems, that also contribute to Attawapiskat's concerns for their community.

4.1.3 Eabametoong First Nation

4.1.3.1 Community Overview

The Eabametoong First Nation is an Anishinaabemowin (Oji-Cree) Nation in Treaty No. 9 territory located in Northwestern Ontario. Eabametoong First Nation is located 365 km north of Thunder Bay and 165 km south of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. It is situated on the northern shores of Eabamet Lake which flows into the Albany River within the Unorganized Kenora District.

The traditional language spoken in Eabametoong is Ojibway. The name 'Eabametoong' means 'the reversing of the water place' in the Ojibway language, which refers to the reversing of the water flow at Eabamet Narrows in the spring. Eabametoong First Nation is also known as 'Fort Hope', a name that was established for the HBC Trading Post at this location in 1894, that was accessed by canoe (Long, 2010).

Eabametoong First Nation is a Nishnawbe Aski Nation (Treaty No. 9) community. In 1905 at the time of the signing of the Treaty, the government community member list for the Fort Hope Indian Band included people living in the nearby communities of Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie (Driben and Trudeau, 1983). The people of these communities remained on the government list for the Fort Hope Band until 1985, when it declared the three communities as separate Bands (Driben and Trudeau, 1983).

Eabametoong First Nation has a Registered Population of 2,874 as of February 2024, with 1,621 members living on own reserve, 53 members on other reserves, 01 member on own crown land, 02 members on no band crown land, and 1,197 members off reserve (Government of Canada, 2024c). Eabametoong First Nation is only accessible by air or by winter road which connect the community to the NORT. The airport is an all-season VFR facility.

The community has a mix of residential lots, and commercial and community buildings that provide a range of services generally seen in remote Indigenous communities of northern Ontario, including police, fire, nursing station, grocery, school, community services and utilities.

Eabametoong First Nation has a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief, one Head Councillor and five Councillors elected every two years (CIRNAC, 2023c). The next election will be in June 2023.

The community is formally affiliated with the following political territorial organizations:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
- Matawa First Nations; and
- Chiefs of Ontario.

4.1.3.2 Community History

Eabametoong First Nation is located along the shores of Eabamet Lake on the Albany River System. Eabametoong means “the reversing of the water place” (Long, 2010). The Albany River is an ancient east-west “highway” that allows the Anishinaabeg to travel and continue their traditional customs of harvesting, hunting, fishing and trapping (Teach for Canada, 2017a). Prior to the fur trade, people of Eabemetoong lived along Eabamet Lake in seasonal locations. Once the fur trading post on Eabamet Lake was built in 1894, and HBC established Fort Hope, a fur trade post located on Attawapiskat Lake in 1891, many families moved to be closer to the Fort Hope site (Driben and Trudeau, 1983). Two missions were established by the Fort Hope Post – a Catholic mission and the Church of England (Anglican) mission (Teach for Canada, 2017a).

During the 1960’s, Fort Hope Indian Band Members came together to establish a new community as the people had previously been divided over religious lines. In 1962, a new town was built up with houses and infrastructure (Driben and Trudeau, 1983). In 1985, the Treaty name of Fort Hope Indian Reserve was changed to the traditional name of Eabametoong First Nation (The Firelight Group, 2017a). Gold was discovered at the Fort Hope mine in 1927 and the gold rush in the region followed in the 1940’s (The Firelight Group, 2017a).

4.1.3.3 Community Values and Aspirations

The Firelight report for the Greenstone Gold Mine outlined the following valued components that were identified as critical conditions that must be present for the continued practice of Eabametoong First Nation culture: water and fishing, hunting and cultural continuity. These were seen as community values and important to Eabametoong First Nation members (The Firelight Group, 2017b).

Eabametoong First Nation is one of ten northern First Nations who have launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023).

These communities have requested that the Canadian government be barred from making any decisions about how land could be used without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centres on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written promises of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The Nations are arguing that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023).

4.1.4 Kasabonika Lake First Nation

4.1.4.1 Community Overview

Indigenous communities in the local and regional study areas for the WSR Socio-Economic Environment baseline are Anishiniimowin, Anishinabe and Mushkeego First Nations and Métis Peoples with traditional territories that cover the lands. First Nations are predominantly located north of the provincial highway system, and accessible only by air and by winter road. Other First Nations and Métis, located further south, are serviced by the provincial highway system. All participating First Nations communities are located within the Treaty No. 9 territory, except for Long Lake #58 First Nation, which lies within the geographic boundaries of the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850, and the Métis Nation of Ontario, which is not part of Treaty No. 9.

The Kasabonika Lake First Nation is a fly-in Anishininiimowin (Oji-Cree) Nation in Treaty No. 9 territory located in Northern Ontario. Kasabonika Lake First Nation is located 570 km north of Thunder Bay and 448 km northeast of Sioux Lookout. The community is situated on the southwestern shores of Kasabonika Lake which is within the Winisk River watershed.

The traditional language spoken is Oji-Cree. Kasabonika Lake First Nation signed the Treaty No. 9 Adhesion in 1929/1930 (Government of Canada, 2022). Today, the Kasabonika Lake First Nation reserve consists of 10,806 hectares (ha).

Kasabonika Lake First Nation has a Registered Population of 1,219 as of February 2024, with 1,117 members living on-reserve, 68 members living off-reserve, 28 members on other reserves, five members on own crown land, one member on other band crown land (Government of Canada, 2024d). The community is situated on the southwestern shores of Kasabonika Lake, with the large portion of the reserve lands connecting to the north. Kasabonika Lake drains into the Asheweig River, within the Winisk River watershed.

The community is only accessible by air, with seasonal road access in the winter months only. The Kasabonika Lake First Nation community is located primarily on Kasabonika Island on Kasabonika Lake, with some parts of the community situated across the bridge to the mainland, including the all-season VFR Kasabonika Airport and other ancillary services. Land use on Kasabonika Island includes a mix of residential, commercial and community buildings, which house services typical of remote communities in northern Ontario.

Kasabonika Lake First Nation has a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief, Deputy Chief, Head Councillor and four Councillors elected every two years (CIRNAC, 2023d). The next election will be in December 2026. The community is formally affiliated with the following political territorial organizations:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
- Shibogama First Nations Council; and
- Chiefs of Ontario.

4.1.4.2 Community History

Kasabonika Lake First Nation is a signatory of Treaty No. 9 and received reserve status in 1979 (Shepherd and Orchard, 2022). Kasabonika Lake became a satellite community of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake) in the 1970's (MacDonald, 2011). Kasabonika Lake First Nation has a long tradition of seasonal settlements throughout their traditional territory. Generally, these were erected or occupied during the spring when large game was abundant (Sieciechowicz, 1986). Camps are spread out along the lakeshore and represent a more diffuse pattern of settlement. Today homes in the community are packed more closely together.

The community chose the island location for several reasons: It is more convenient to land a float plane, it is a natural protection against forest fires, and it provides some protection from bears and wolves (MacDonald, 2011). During the fur-trade period, Kasabonika Lake First Nation settlement had a palisade encircling it (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The Kasabonika Lake First Nation homeland is centred on the lakes of Kasabonika and Shibogama, with heavy utilization on the lakes, and an overall east-west orientation and important connection with Big Trout Lake to the west. The Kasabonika Lake First Nation utilize the land for hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and for travel between communities (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The land north of Kasabonika Lake was historically used more extensively compared to the other areas around Kasabonika Lake. As the Kasabonika Lake First Nation was an established community site even before the signing of the treaty, there was no need for families to settle in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug so there are almost no historical records of people from Kasabonika Lake First Nation utilizing the territories further to the north (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

4.1.4.3 Community Values and Aspirations

In 2008, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) invested $50,000 for the Kasabonika Community Development Corporation to undertake a community consultation project on mineral resource development, which would provide community members with information regarding the benefits, impacts and issues surrounding mineral development projects (Government of Ontario, 2008). An additional $132,140 has also been planned by NOHFC to build a warehouse to accommodate mineral exploration companies working in the area and enable the community to benefit from resource development.

To partake in the growing mining sector in the region, Becker (Nimkie Mining Services) has struck a number of agreements with business partners including Asabanaka Drill Services, a majority First Nation-owned company out of Kasabonika Lake First Nation, to assist with the start-up of a 10-week diamond driller training course (Northern Ontario Business, 2017). This training offers in diamond drilling services, exploration and geophysics, infrastructure project management, and common core training in drilling, surface mining and heavy equipment (Northern Ontario Business, 2017).

ThawiKayhiGan Group (TKG Group) was established in 2018 and is owned equally by Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake), Wapekeka, Wawakapewin and Wunnumin Lake First Nations. The group, based in Thunder Bay, works to generate new economic opportunities for its communities. “This is our first business acquisition that will directly service our First Nations,” said Jonathon Mamakwa, President of the TKG Group. “This is key in our overall plan in contributing to the development of healthy First Nation communities with vibrant economies that support future generations,” he adds (Dryden Now, 2023).

4.1.5 Marten Falls First Nation

4.1.5.1 Community Overview

The Marten Falls First Nation is a remote Anishininiimowin (Oji-Cree) Nation in Treaty No. 9 territory located in Northwestern Ontario, situated approximately 435 km northeast of Thunder Bay on the north shore of the Ogoki River, a tributary of the Albany River. The traditional language spoken in Marten Falls is Oji-Cree.

Marten Falls First Nation signed Treaty No. 9 in 1905 and is a Nishnawbe Aski (Treaty No. 9) First Nation community (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, 2023). The community was allocated the Marten Falls #65 reserve with an area of 7,770.1 ha (CIRNAC, 2023e).

Marten Falls First Nation has a Registered Population of 882 as of February 2024, with 359 members living on own reserve, 35 members on other reserves, 04 members on other band crown land, 03 members on no band crown land, and 481 members living off reserve (Government of Canada, 2024e).

Marten Falls First Nation is located approximately 435 km northeast of Thunder Bay and 170 km northeast of Nakina. The settlement is on the north shore of the Ogoki River, where the Ogoki and Albany Rivers meet. The Marten Falls community has closely spaced residential, commercial and community buildings located on a few main roads.

Marten Falls First Nation is a remote fly-in community with seasonal winter road connection. The all-season VFR airport and other ancillary facilities are located to the north and east of the community centre. Marten Falls First Nation follows the *Indian Act* Electoral System, with one Chief and seven Councillors elected every two years. The next election will be in September 2025. The community is formally affiliated with the following political territorial organizations:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
- Matawa First Nations; and
- Chiefs of Ontario.

4.1.5.2 Community History

Marten Falls history dates back to the inland movement of the fur trade in 1600s.The Marten Falls Trading Post was established by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) in 1784. It was located on the Albany River, 115 miles upriver from the Company's first inland post at Henley House (Long, 2010). The Post continued to operate until 1924, when it relocated 65 km downriver to the confluence of the Albany and Ogoki Rivers (Teach for Canada, 2017b). The new location became known as Ogoki. The Marten Falls community then migrated to this area in 1926, which is at 'the end of the rapids: Wegwajiwanang'. The community became a signatory of James Bay Treaty No. 9 in 1905. Beginning in 1940 the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario diverted the Ogoki River for hydroelectric power generation at Decew Falls near St. Catherines (Long, 2010).

4.1.5.3 Community Values and Aspirations

Marten Falls First Nation wishes to maintain self reliance and confirm that they preserve the community's history and relationship to the land (MFFN, 2013).

The Community-Based Land Use Plan (CBLUP) ToR states (MFFN, 2013):

- "The land and all of its living creatures are viewed by the Anishnabek as integral to the circle of life and integral to the survival and balance and harmony of the environment that Anishnabek is only one part of";
- "The Anishnabek relationship to the land should be seen as a cultured landscape; also, an area that is continuously being used by the Anishnabek as a habitation and as a resource";
- The Anishnabek are of the land; their customs, identity, and cultures are tied intricately to the land and its resources;
- "Engage the Anishnabek on all issues that affect our shared and communal lands." All Anishnabek should be treated with respect and therefore, are to be engaged on matters that affect their lives directly; and
- "Respect the natural and Anishnawbe customs and teachings at all times." The Creator put Anishnabek on these lands as stewards of the land to take care of the lands and use the lands and its resources indefinitely. The only conditions were to adhere to the natural and traditional teachings of the Elders.

Marten Falls First Nation is currently undertaking an EA for a Community Access Road, which is a separate undertaking from the Northern Road Link and the WSR. Marten Falls Chief Bruce Achneepineskum has outlined that community members have wanted an all-season road connection for over two decades to bring down the cost of living (Hessey, 2023). As Marten Falls First Nation is only accessible by air and the winter road system, the community is working towards an all-season multi-purpose road between Marten Falls First Nation and the provincial highway network which

currently terminates at Nakina (AECOM, 2020). This road will create safer access to the community along with a reduction in the cost of food, fuel and other supplies being brought into the community (AECOM, 2020).).

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum recently outlined that Marten Falls First Nation would like to take the lead on any government process that happens on their land and that “We want to build a new relationship with government based on our treaty, and that’s the route we want to go” (Forester, 2022).

4.1.6 Neskantaga First Nation

4.1.6.1 Community Overview

Neskantaga First Nation is an Anishininiimowin (Oji-Cree) Nation in Treaty No. 9 territory located in Northwestern Ontario, approximately 435 km north of Thunder Bay. The community is situated on the north shore of Attawapiskat Lake. It is one of the closest Indigenous communities to Webequie First Nation, which is located less than 100 km to the north. The traditional language spoken in Neskantaga is Oji-Cree. Neskantaga is a Nishnawbe Aski (Treaty No. 9) First Nation community.

Neskantaga First Nation has a registered population of 505 as of February 2024, with 358 members living on own reserve, 18 members on other reserves, 04 members on own crown land, and 125 members living off reserve (Government of Canada, 2024f). It is a fly-in community with seasonal winter road connection from Pickle Lake (Ontario, 2023a). Neskantaga First Nation follows a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief, and four Councillors elected every two years. The next election will be in March 2025 (CIRNAC, 2023f).

The community is formally affiliated with the following political territorial organizations:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
- Matawa First Nations; and
- Chiefs of Ontario.

4.1.6.2 Community History

By 1900, HBC operated a northern outpost known as Lansdowne House, on Attawapiskat Lake (Long, 2010). The Neskantaga First Nation people settled here. This was once part of a major trade route as it is surrounded by the Attawapiskat and Otoskwin Rivers (Neskantaga First Nation, 2023).

In 1905, Neskantaga First Nation was considered part of the Fort Hope People at the time of the signing of Treaty No. 9 (Driben and Trudeau, 1983; Long, 2010). The Neskantaga people were included until 1985 when the federal government declared the three communities as separate Bands, the community members of the Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie First Nations were considered members of the Fort Hope Indian Band, as it was known at the time.

Neskantaga moved from their original community at Lansdowne House, near the former HBC trading post, as the swampy land limited expansion of the community (CBC, 2022). The relocation occurred in the 1980s to the location known as Grandmother’s Point approximately 20 km west up-shore on Attawapiskat Lake (CBC, 2020).

4.1.6.3 Community Values and Aspirations

Neskantaga First Nation is closely tied to the land and the community strives to balance conservation and resource development along with economic development (Neskantaga First Nation, 2023). Neskantaga First Nation has outlined in their value statement that they will treat all members with respect and dignity and treat their Elders in high esteem.

The community will work together to resolve conflict and differences and work together to confirm the development of a self-reliant community (Neskantaga First Nation, 2023).

In November 2021, Neskantaga First Nation took legal action against the Ontario government and requested the court's guidance on the Crown failing to fulfill its duty to consult and accommodate the consultation period with Indigenous Nations under the *EAA* (Chamberlain, 2023). Their application cited previous experience of inadequate consultations on the Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR), and that "based on the current plans for the construction of roads, mines and other types of infrastructure in the region, Neskantaga will suffer irreversibly negative impacts to its Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and titles. These impacts will affect the people, land, territory and resources of Neskantaga" (Neskantaga Notice of Application, 2021). Ontario Superior Court dismissed this challenge brought forward by Neskantaga First Nation and found that the province did not "offload" the duty to consult to another party. The Judge in the case also ruled that the court "has no jurisdiction to rewrite" or upgrade the act, nor the authority "to make a declaration on the extent" of Ontario's duty to "consult and accommodate First Nations" (Ross, 2023).

Neskantaga First Nation has requested that the provincial government retract the draft TOR for the regional assessment of the Ring of Fire Area and restart the Ring of Fire consultation process to ensure it is "mutually and equally co-developed, co-led and co-enforced by First Nations" (Raventrust, 2022). A letter to the Environment Ministry dated October 13, 2020, states: "Neskantaga's land use options will be permanently altered by the project as the WSR will bisect Neskantaga's lands and change forever the options for ensuring the continued practice of Neskantaga's way of life on Neskantaga territory (Porter, 2020). In 2021, Neskantaga First Nation signed a moratorium on new developments in the Ring of Fire (Schlote, 2023).

Neskantaga First Nation is one of 10 northern First Nations who have launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023). They have requested that the federal government be barred from making any decisions about how land could be used without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centres on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written commitments of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The Nations are arguing that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023).

4.1.7 Nibinamik First Nation

4.1.7.1 Community Overview

Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement) is an Anishininiimowin (Oji-Cree) Nation in Treaty No. 9 territory in Northwestern Ontario. Nibinamik First Nation is located 480 km north of Thunder Bay. It is located on the Summer Beaver settlement along the eastern shores of Nibinamik Lake on the Winisk River system.

Nibinamik First Nation is a Treaty No. 9 First Nation community (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, 2023). In 1905, the Fort Hope Indian Band and Fort Hope Indian Reserve #64 were created by the federal government following the signing of Treaty No. 9 under the terms of the *Indian Act*. The Fort Hope Indian Band originally included members of the (now) Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope) and the nearby satellite communities of Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie, until 1985 when the federal government declared the four communities as separate Bands.

Nibinamik First Nation has a registered population of 264 as of February 2024, with 100 members living on own reserve, 11 members on other reserves, 02 member on other band crown land, 304 members on no band crown land, and 148 members living off reserve (Government of Canada, 2024g). It has only seasonal winter road access and an all-season VFR airport.

The community is situated on land surrounded on three sides by Nibinamik Lake. To the south, a road leads out of the community to the airport and other ancillary infrastructure. The community is small and compact with a mix of

residential, commercial and community buildings. Education, health, Band administration and other community services and infrastructure are provided in the community.

Nibinamik First Nation follows a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief and three Councillors elected every two years (CIRNAC, 2023g). The next election will be in November 2025. The community is formally affiliated with the following political territorial organizations:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
- Matawa First Nations; and
- Chiefs of Ontario.

4.1.7.2 Community History

The ancestry of the people of Nibinamik can be traced back to Northern Anishinabe Peoples that comprised of camps along the shores of Lake Superior and surrounding rivers (McNeil, 2018; Driben and Trudeau, 1983). The Nibinamik People were involved with the fur trade (Driben and Trudeau, 1983). By the early 1800's, the Nibinamik people moved closer to trading posts as there was increased pressure on wildlife due to over hunting and trapping (McNeil, 2018). Prior to Treaty No. 9, the people of Nibinamik were known to live in four separate villages: Mameigwess Lake, Eyes Lake, Wigwashnis and Old Summer Beaver (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). Nibinamik, also known as the Summer Beaver Band, never signed a treaty with the British or Canadian governments and never surrendered their rights to their traditional lands (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). Nibinamik is listed under Treaty No. 9 as part of the Eabametoong First Nation (the Fort Hope Band), which was a signatory to the Treaty. Prior to Treaty No. 9, the people of Nibinamik lived in four separate villages: Mameigwess Lake, Eyes Lake, Wigwashnis Lake and Old Summer Beaver (Nibinamik) (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014).

Nibinamik First Nation/Summer Beaver Band was formed in 1975 when a group of Anglican families decided to leave Lansdowne House (now Neskantaga First Nation), a predominantly Catholic settlement, to Nibinamik Lake due to differences that were defined along religious lines at the time (Summer Beaver, N.D.). Around 100 people decided to make the journey back to their traditional lands over four days with over 40 portages (Hartwig, 2019). Pre-colonization, First Nations in the area prospered as animals and resources were plentiful (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). However, the community economy collapsed in the early 1800's as a result of over hunting by settlers and trappers of the Northwest Company and HBC (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014).

4.1.7.3 Community Values and Aspirations

Protection of the land is very important to Nibinamik community members for both economic and spiritual reasons (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). A 2014 study showed that approximately half of the community members in Nibinamik First Nation still hunt, trap and fish to provide for their families with a small number engaging in these activities for a source of income (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). The Nibinamik people consider land to be somewhere to heal and where they feel at home. The land is tied to their culture and traditions (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). There is an overall lack of trust with the mining companies due to concerns that they will destroy the environment, and the land to which the community is so closely tied to (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014).

Community members have outlined both positive and negative perspectives on mining and any potential road access (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). Members have emphasized the need for community consultation, and to confirm that information is also provided in the community's traditional languages – Ojibway and Oji-Cree to make certain those who do not speak English fluently are able to understand (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014).

A 2014 survey showed that 94% of community members who answered the survey outlined that teaching children about Ojibway culture was very important (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014).

A letter from Nibinamik First Nation's Chief to MECP in February 2021, outlined their preliminary comments on the supply roads to Webequie and Marten Falls and the Northern Road link (Nibinamik First Nation, 2021). While Nibinamik is generally supportive of First Nation groups working to connect to the provincial road system, they have flagged major concerns with the structure of the assessment process and the siloed approach to consultation (Oskineegish, 2021).

Community members have outlined that passing on the Anishinaabe language, cultural and traditional values to the next generation is a high priority (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). Nibinamik First Nation members have also outlined a vision of a healthier community and utilizing traditional ways to help community members heal (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014).

4.1.8 Weenusk First Nation

4.1.8.1 Community Overview

Weenusk First Nation is a Muskkegowuk (Cree) Nation in Treaty No. 9 territory located in Northwestern Ontario, approximately 770 km north of Thunder Bay. The community settlement, known as Peawunuck, located on the western shore of the Winisk River, at the mouth of the Asheweig River, approximately 35 km upriver of the Winisk River confluence with Hudson's Bay.

The traditional language spoken in Weenusk First Nation is Swampy Cree. Weenusk refers to a ground hog. The name Peawanuck means 'flint' and was named after Flint Rock which is a place within the community that has a large deposit of flint (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017).

Weenusk First Nation is a Nishnawbe Aski (Treaty No. 9) community. Weenusk First Nation signed the Treaty No. 9 Adhesion in 1930. The Weenusk First Nation was allocated the Winisk 90 reserve which is 5,310 ha located at the mouth of the Winisk River. The community's town site was located on the reserve until it was destroyed in 1986 by a flood caused by ice jamming (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). After the 1986 flood, the entire community was rebuilt 35 km upriver at the location known as Peawanuck (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017).

Weenusk First Nation has a registered population of 612 as of February 2024, with 27 members living on reserve, 03 members on other reserves, 252 members on own crown land, 06 members on other band crown land, 04 members on no band crown land, and 320 members living off reserve (Government of Canada, 2024h). It is a fly-in community that is currently serviced by the all-season VFR Peawanuck Airport, and a winter road which links them to the winter road network via the Fort Severn First Nation (Government of Ontario, 2023). Peawanuck is a community with newer infrastructure and housing, much of it proudly built by the community members themselves after moving from the old settlement. The community hosts a suite of education, health and administrative and other community services and infrastructure to support remote community operations.

Weenusk First Nation follows a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief and three Councillors elected every two years (CIRNAC, 2023h). The next election will be in March 2026. Weenusk First Nation is independent and is not affiliated with a Tribal Council but is a member of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Chiefs of Ontario. Elder and youth involvement in governance decision-making is important to Weenusk First Nation as Elders have a better understanding of potential impacts to traditional areas and living, while youth provide their opinion of how changes will affect their and Weenusk First Nation future (MNP LLP, 2023b).

"The community is (…) higher than Chief and Council because they're the ones that see what's going on in the community." – WFN01

"Leadership would have a meeting regarding what's going on (...) It's up to the community members what they want, (…) and what our community members want is forwarded to the leadership. (…) And the leadership is our voice, [for] what we want." – WFN29

"The leadership comes second, the membership has the first saying before it happens, that's their role." – WFN39 (via Interpreter)

"I think [Webequie] need to consult community members (…) and I'm talking about the youth. I mean, this is their (…) future. They have a right to [have a] say." – WFN10

"It's up to the next generation to have a say (…) if they want something to benefit (…) them. It is actually necessary not to make the decision for them." – WFN01

"I don't know if the Elders even received anything (…) that's important for them to know, they need to be told in Cree because a lot of them don't speak English (…) They need to be told what the plan is, how it's [the Project or future development] gonna affect the waterways and the land and the animals and stuff like that." – WFN37

4.1.8.2 Community History

The Hudson Bay-James Bay coastline in Northern Ontario has always served as a home to Weenusk First Nation (Weenusk First Nation & MNRF, 2017). The mouth of the Winisk River was always a gathering place in the spring and summer for Weenusk First Nation people (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). Weenusk first made contact with European settlers in the 1600s, which led to the colonization of many traditional areas. The colonization by European settlers resulted in establishing a trading post for the Hudson Bay company in 1670, which later became a permanent post in 1924. A trading post was established on the Winisk River in the 1800's with a permanent Roman Catholic Mission in the early 20th century (Lemelin et al., 2010). Members would travel to the nearby towns with the HBC Post and Catholic mission as a base and then travel from the mouth of the bay to their hunting grounds (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). With the Roman Catholic base, Weenusk families became more sedentary and dependent on manufactured goods (Lemelin et al., 2010). Weenusk First Nation members traded with the fur traders and some gained employment working for the missionary in the sawmill as well as building houses and churches (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017).

Interactions with federal officials began when the Treaty No. 9 Adhesion was ratified in the 1930's (Lemelin et al., 2010). In 1953, the army set up a radar base and houses were donated to the community. Members of the Weenusk community worked at this radar base and were provided housing by the Royal Canadian Air Force. This would become the Weenusk community site. From 1940-1960's (the military era), the community saw an increase in infrastructure a wage economy with permanent dwellings (Lemelin et al., 2010). In the 1970's the village of Weenusk was more of a meeting place for families, rather than a permanent settlement. Although the area was suitable for a radar station, the area was susceptible to seasonal flooding (Weenusk First Nation & MNRF 2017). Although the area was suitable for a radar station, the area was susceptible to seasonal flooding (Weenusk First Nation & MNRF 2017). Seasonal flooding became a major issue for Weenusk with a flood disaster occurring in 1986 (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). After this, the community moved inland to its current location, known as Peawanuck, which is located approximately 35 km from the Weenusk River's confluence with Hudson Bay (Lemelin et al., 2010).

4.1.8.3 Community Values and Aspirations

Protection of their traditional way of life and protection of water is of primary interest to the Weenusk First Nation people (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). The goal of the community "To ensure the health of future generations, our land and water by maintaining traditional lifestyle, guided by the knowledge of our Elders, harvesters and hunters. By protecting what the ancestors preserved, our future generations may live in a healthy environment" (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). Members of the Weenusk First Nation identify the traditional lands and waters as an important aspect of their identity and a key component that distinguishes Weenusk from other communities, as it is described by members as "clean" and "natural and untouched [by development]" (MNP LLP, 2023b).

"[Weenusk traditional area] is very diverse and very lovely land" – WFN02 via translator

"Well, I would say [the land is] unique because we still have this untouched, remote land, natural [land]. Everything is just perfect. There's no contaminations, no (…) major consequences yet of development. Sure we might start seeing changes in migrations with the caribou that do migrate in these areas. But besides that, everything's natural and untouched, and it's preserved. Everything's safe. We can go down to the bank, drink the water, and do all that and, you know, have no issues." – WFN06a

Weenusk First Nation has expressed concerns over the consultation of Northern Road Link and in December 2020 had requested that the consultation deadline be extended for comments on the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire (Turner, 2020). As Weenusk traditional lands and waters is located downstream of the Northern Road Link, development of the Northern Road Link may result in changes to water flow and future potential downstream contamination to Weenusk traditional lands, subsequently impacting living conditions, traditional practices (harvesting, hunting, fishing, etc.), and preservation of resources for future generations (MNP LLP, 2023b).

Stewardship of the environment is critical to the identity and well-being of Weenusk First Nation because it ensures that culturally significant resources are available for future generations (MNP LLP, 2023b). Part of the stewardship is passing cultural knowledge and traditions to future generations to preserve the Weenusk First Nation identity. Stewardship of the environment is also closely associated with Weenusk governance, harvesting rights, and the exercise of harvesting activities. As such, changes to stewardship can have potential impacts on Weenusk governance and traditional practices (MNP LLP, 2023b).

The Weenusk IKLRU study (MNP LLP, 2023b) identified the following VCs as apart of their study in the context of WSR (**Table 4-1**).

Table 4-1: Weenusk IKLRU study Valued Components and Rationale

VC	Rationale
Cultural Landscape and Connection to the Land	Weenusk's Cultural Landscapes and Connection to Land can be understood as collectively recognized elements that are implicit and distinct to Weenusk First Nation. Cultural Landscapes and Connection to Land is an overarching component that interconnects all VCs listed below.
Harvesting and Harvested Foods	Harvesting is an essential component of Weenusk's Section 35 rights, including Weenusk's Treaty 9 rights. These rights are exercised throughout Weenusk's traditional areas. Harvesting activities include hunting; fishing; trapping (Treaty 9 rights); and gathering plants, medicines, and berries (Section 35 rights). Within their harvesting rights, Weenuski Inninowuk have the right to access uncompromised lands and waters within their traditional areas, and to actively hunt, trap, fish, and gather in a meaningful, preferred manner.
Weenusk Governance	Weenusk governance relates to the rules and authority structures that make Weenusk unique and exist both within and without the colonial *Indian Act*. Weenusk's governance gives Weenusk the right to govern and manage the environment within its traditional lands, including lands and waters.
Stewardship	The ability to care for and manage the environment and enhance environmental sustainability within Weenusk First Nation's traditional areas is critical to Weenuski Inninowuk identity and well-being. Through exercising stewardship of the lands and waters, Weenuski Inninowuk ensure that culturally significant resources can support the entire community, as well as future generations. Stewardship principles can relate to habitat quality, water quality, air quality, and resource quality. Additionally, stewardship is connected to Weenuski Inninowuk's rights to harvest in a preferred and meaningful manner.
Intact Environment	Having an Intact Environment is essential to Weenuski Inninowuk abilities to harvest unobstructed in preferred and important areas. This also contributes to the transmission of knowledge and culture to future generations. Having an Intact Environment is intrinsically linked to the overall health and well-being of community members, as well as Weenuski Inninowuk perception of the quality of resources within their traditional areas. It is also the result of successful Weenusk Governance and Stewardship of the Environment.

VC	Rationale
Community Health	As Peawanuck is located in a remote area with limited access to stores and medical centres, Weenuski Inninowuk rely heavily on resources from the land and waters. As such, the health of the community is tied significantly to the quality of resources in Weenusk's traditional areas. Further, Weenusk First Nation has the right to physical and mental health to ensure the well-being of all Weenuski Inninowuk. This also means Weenuski Inninowuk have the right to access resources within their traditional areas without the fear of contamination or pollution.
Community Well-being	Weenusk Community Well-Being relates to the healthy bodies, minds, and spirits of community members, and is intertwined with the environment and the condition of the territory. Community Well-Being also relates to Weenusk Economic Prosperity, community safety, and access to important supplies.
Important Sites on the Landscape	Important Sites on the Landscape are key components in providing historical and intergenerational connection to Weenuski Inninowuk. Some aspects of important sites include accessibility, and Weenuski Inninowuk perception of the land and waters in their traditional areas.
Weenuski Inninowuk Identity	All previously listed VCs support Weenuski Inninowuk Identity. Weenusk First Nation Member Identity is also composed of Weenuski Inninowuk connection to land, waters, and culture, including a connection to harvesting activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and learning to survive on the land. Weenuski Inninowuk Identity also includes aspects of language, and connection to family and community.

Weenusk First Nation's *Cultural Landscapes and Connection to the Land* is an important intrinsic value to the Weenusk way of life and being, where traditional knowledge and practices are held and transmitted (MNP LLP, 2023b).

> *"It's our way of life too (…) and we try and (…) to teach our children that too (…) It's like a passed-on thing, (…) living off the land (…) and respecting the animals (…)" – WFN17*

> *"The land is so important and, in my family, (…) my grandparents taught us to respect the land, (…) and especially with the animals, respecting them (…) after you've killed [them] and you put tobacco down." – WFN27*

The remote nature of Peawanuck and small community size is seen as a positive aspect of Weenusk First Nation as it also ties to the Weenusk identity, reinforcing the connection to community, Weenusk traditional areas, and traditional ways of living.

> *"We're so remote, nobody (…) really pays attention to us, in a good way (…) so we've learned to be self-sufficient (…) very self-sufficient (…) very community oriented, and (…) still practice traditions that [are] discontinued in some communities." – WFN03*

> *"Everybody knows each other here, it is a small community." – WFN05*

> *"We're so rich, because we have so much land (…) our traditions are so strong around here." – WFN27*

Another aspect of Weenusk identity is the feeling of pride and personal and familial connections to the lands and waters in Weenusk's traditional areas.

> *"Families in town can be traced back to before they were forced onto [reserve]." – WFN06*

> *"[I'm] proud to be a (…) Weenusk First Nation, Peawanuck. I grew up in the Weenusk area, from 1953, that's when I came home. Even though I lost my culture, I regained everything. My mom did most of the work, [she] gave me back the language, and the people in the community helped me a lot too, about the hunting, and how to fish, how to survive on the land, they gave me the survival skills that I lost." – WFN16*

"What it means to him as a Peawanuck [is] that he is able to travel, [be] free, and there's no property signs whatsoever, so it's for him to harvest and it's also a (…) peace of mind." – WFN02 via translator

"Just how isolated we are (…) we're really far, far north. Just how (…) clean it is, how fresh the air is. And that's something (…) a lot of people don't experience." – WFN08

"Weenusk is very unique. We're very isolated. People have moved on from here, because life is hard. But there are people that stayed back, because no matter how difficult it is (…) this is home, it's freedom (…) It has so much to offer, like freedom, health. If you go through stress (…) you just go out to the land and go camping, regenerate." – WFN10

In an interview (MNP LLP, 2023b), one community member indicated that the ability to live off the land and exercise harvesting practices without interference is considered more important than development and money.

"We're rich the way we live. We're still living like we used to do a long time [ago] (…) people who go out every day almost every day on the weekends, especially people with family." – WFN32

4.2 Regional Study Area

4.2.1 Indigenous Communities

Indigenous communities in the Socio-Economic Environment RSA are First Nations and Métis. Similar to the First Nation communities described as part of the LSA, First Nations communities in the RSA are Anishiniimowin, Anishinabe and Mushkeego Peoples with traditional territories that cover the lands described by the RSA.

First Nations in the RSA are predominantly located north of the provincial highway system, and accessible only by air and by winter road. Other First Nations in the RSA are located further south are serviced by the provincial highway system. All participating First Nations listed in **Table 4-2**, communities within the Treaty No. 9 territory except for Long Lake #58 First Nation, which lies within the Robison-Superior Treaty of 1850.

Table 4-2 describes the location and reserve lands of First Nations in the RSA, as well as fly-in and winter road or all-season road access to the provincial highway system.

Table 4-2: Location and Reserve Lands of First Nations in the Regional Study Area and Fly-In and Winter Road/All-Season Road Access

First Nation	Location	Reserve(s)/Settlement(s)	Fly-in and Winter Road/All-Season Road Access
Aroland First Nation	Aroland First Nation is located 260 km northeast of Thunder Bay, 20 km west of Nakina, and 310 km south of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. It is situated near the southeastern shores of Wawong Lake along Highway 643, 65 km north of the Town of Geraldton within the Municipality of Greenstone.	Aroland Indian Settlement	All-season road access

First Nation	Location	Reserve(s)/Settlement(s)	Fly-in and Winter Road/All-Season Road Access
Constance Lake First Nation	Constance Lake First Nation is located 410 km east of Thunder Bay, 35 km west of Hearst, and 410 km south of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. The community is situated along the south and eastern shores of Constance Lake just off the Trans-Canada Highway.	Constance Lake 92 & English River 66	All-season road access
Fort Albany First Nation	Fort Albany First Nation is located 685 km northeast of Thunder Bay and 390 km east of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. The community is situated just south of Kashechewan First Nation in the southern area of the Albany River delta, 15 km from where it empties into James Bay.	Fort Albany 67 (Fort Albany Indian Settlement – south shore)	Fly-in and winter road
Ginoogaming First Nation	Ginoogaming First Nation is located 250 km northeast of Thunder Bay, 30 km east of Geraldton and 370 km south of Webequie First Nation. It neighbours the community of Longlac, Ontario along Highway 11.	Ginoogaming First Nation	All-season road access
Kashechewan First Nation	Kashechewan First Nation is located 685 km northeast of Thunder Bay and 390 km east of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. The community is situated north of Fort Albany First Nation and south of Attawapiskat First Nation on the northern area of the delta of the Albany River, 15 km from where it empties into James Bay.	Fort Albany 67 (Kashechewan Indian Settlement across Albany River)	Fly-in and winter road
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	Kingfisher Lake First Nation is located approximately 520 km north of Thunder Bay and 165 km west of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. The community is situated on the western shore of Kingfisher Lake.	Kingfisher 2A, Kingfisher 3A & Kingfisher Lake 1	Fly-in and winter road
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation is located 605 km north of Thunder Bay and 190 km northwest of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. The community is situated on an island close to the eastern shores of Big Trout Lake.	KI Aaki 84	Fly-in and winter road
Long Lake #58 First Nation	Long Lake First Nation is located 250 km northeast of Thunder Bay, 30 km east of Geraldton and 370 km south of Webequie First Nation. It neighbours the community of Longlac, Ontario along Highway 11.	Long Lake 58	All-season road access
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	Mishkeegogamang First Nation is located 310 km north of Thunder Bay and 283 km southwest of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. It is situated near the shores of Lake St. Joseph along Highway 599 which runs between Ignace and Pickle Lake.	Osnaburgh 63A & Osnaburgh 63B	All-season road access

First Nation	Location	Reserve(s)/Settlement(s)	Fly-in and Winter Road/All-Season Road Access
North Caribou Lake First Nation	North Caribou Lake First Nation is located 530 km north of Thunder Bay and 265 km northwest of Webequie First Nation. It is situated on the northern shore of Weagamow Lake.	Weagamow Lake 87	Fly-in and winter road
Wapekeka First Nation	Wapekeka First Nation is located 610 km north of Thunder Bay and 193 km northwest of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. It is situated on shores of Angling Lake.	Wapekeka 1 & Wapekeka 2	Fly-in and winter road
Wawakapewin First Nation	Wawakapewin First Nation is located 565 km north of Thunder Bay and 125 km west of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. The community is situated on the southeast shore of Long Dog Lake, which is part of the Asheweig River, a tributary of the Winisk River.	Wawakapewin	Fly-in and winter road
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	Wunnumin Lake First Nation is located 500 km north of Thunder Bay and 125 km west of Webequie First Nation in northern Ontario. It is situated on a peninsula of Wunnumin Lake.	Wunnumin 1 & Wunnumin 2	Fly-in and winter road

Source: CIRNAC, 2023i; 2023j; 2023k; 2023l; 2023m; 2023n; 2023o; 2023p; 2023q; 2023r; 2023s; 2023t; 2023u.

The Métis Nation of Ontario Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten traditional territory (“Region 2”) is located generally in the southern parts of RSA. There are three Métis Nation of Ontario council offices in Métis Nation of Ontario Region 2, located in Geraldton, representing the Greenstone Métis Nation of Ontario Council; in Terrace Bay representing Superior North Shore MNO Council; and in Thunder Bay representing the Thunder Bay Métis Nation of Ontario Council. Representatives from the three MNO councils and the MNO Regional Councillor for Region 2 represent the regional Métis Nation of Ontario community.

The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO): The executive members of the PCMNO are the president, chair, vice-chair, secretary-treasurer and executive senator. Nine regional councillors, a provincial youth representative, a post-secondary representative and three senators also sit on the PCMNO (MNO, 2023). Every four years Métis Nation of Ontario citizens elect their provincial and regional leadership, by voting in province-wide ballot box elections, as well as representation on Métis Nation of Ontario Community Councils throughout the province.

Red Sky Métis Independent Nation represents its community members in the assertion of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in the area covered by the Robinson Superior Treaty. Community members are among the descendants of Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. Due to the location of the Project, the federal and provincial agencies have not required the community to be consulted on the Project.

First Nations in the RSA are affiliated with the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) provincial territorial organization. Additionally, tribal councils also represent First Nations in the RSA, as listed in **Table 4-3**. First Nations in the RSA have electoral governance systems as listed in **Table 4-4**.

Section 4.2.1.1 provides a brief introduction of historical background, values and aspirations of Indigenous communities in the RSA.

Table 4-3: Tribal Councils Representing First Nations in the Regional Study Area

Tribal Council	First Nation
Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM)	Aroland First Nation Constance Lake First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation Long Lake #58 First Nation
Mushkegowuk Council	Fort Albany First Nation Kashechewan First Nation
Shibogama First Nations Council	Kasabonika Lake First Nation Wapekeka First Nation Wawakapewin First Nation Wunnumin Lake First Nation
Windigo First Nations Council	North Caribou Lake First Nation
Independent First Nations Alliance	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation
-	Mishkeegogamang First Nation
Métis Nation of Ontario	Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2

Source: Matawa First Nations, 2020a; Mushkegowuk Council, 2023; Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023a; Windigo First Nations Council, 2023; Independent First Nations Alliance, 2023.

Table 4-4: Overview of Governance Systems of First Nations in the Regional Study Area

Indigenous Community	Chief and Council Structure	Electoral System	Sources
Aroland First Nation	Chief and seven Councillors.	Custom electoral system. Next election November, 2025.	CIRNAC, 2023i; CIRNAC, 2025a
Constance Lake First Nation	Chief and six Councillors.	*Indian Act* electoral system. Next election June, 2025.	CIRNAC, 2023j; CIRNAC, 2025b
Fort Albany First Nation	Two Chiefs, Two Deputy Chiefs, Head Councillor, and 17 Councillors.	Custom electoral system. Next election October, 2025.	CIRNAC, 2023k; CIRNAC, 2025c
Ginoogaming First Nation	Chief and six Councillors.	*Indian Act* electoral system. Next election August, 2025.	CIRNAC, 2023l; CIRNAC, 2025d
Kashechewan First Nation	Chief, Deputy Chief, Head Councillor, and eight Councillors.	Custom electoral system. Next election August, 2024.	211 Ontario, 2023; 211 Ontario, 2024
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	Chief, Deputy Chief, Head Councillor, and three Councillors.	Custom electoral system. Next election September, 2025 (and September, 2026 for Chief)	211 Ontario North, 2024; CIRNAC, 2025; CIRNAC 2025e
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation	Chief, Deputy Chief, Head Councillor and five Councillors.	Custom electoral system. Next election June, 2026.	CIRNAC, 2023o; CIRNAC, 2025f
Long Lake #58 First Nation	Chief and twelve Councillors.	*Indian Act* electoral system. Next election January, 2026.	CIRNAC, 2023p; CIRNAC, 2025g
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	Chief and five Councillors.	*Indian Act* electoral system. Next election August 9, 2025.	CIRNAC, 2023q; CIRNAC, 2025h
North Caribou Lake First Nation	Chief, Head Councillor and six Councillors.	Custom electoral system. Next election November, 2025.	CIRNAC, 2023r; CIRNAC, 2025i

Indigenous Community	Chief and Council Structure	Electoral System	Sources
Wapekeka First Nation	Chief, Deputy Chief, and four Councillors.	Custom electoral system. Next election November, 2026.	CIRNAC, 2023s; CIRNAC, 2025j
Wawakapewin First Nation	Chief and one Councillor.	Custom electoral system. Next election September, 2025.	CIRNAC, 2023t
Wunnumin First Nation	Chief, Deputy Chief, and five Councillors.	Custom electoral system. Next election September, 2026.	CIRNAC, 2023u; CIRNAC 2025k

4.2.1.1 Historical Background, Values and Aspirations of Indigenous Communities in the Regional Study Area

4.2.1.1.1 Aroland First Nation

Historical Background

The settlement of Aroland First Nation was established around 1900 by community members engaged in the fur trade with HBC. Aroland First Nation is comprised of an amalgamation of members with ties to Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58 and Fort William First Nations (Aroland First Nation, 2022). Aroland gained certain reserve status on April 15, 1985. Aroland has not been given a final formal designation of reserve lands yet (Aroland First Nation, 2022).

Community Values and Aspirations

Aroland First Nation holds interests in both stewardship of its traditional lands and in fostering the social and economic well-being and resilience of its members (Aroland First Nation, 2022).

Aroland First Nation is one of 10 northern First Nations which launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023). They have requested that the Canadian government be barred from making any decisions about how land is used without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centres on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written promises of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The Nations are arguing that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023).

Aroland First Nation has emphasized the lack of adequate consideration given to the connectivity of Webequie First Nation and the Project to the provincial highway system, particularly in light of the Northern Road Link Project and its potential cumulative impacts on their community and traditional territory. Aroland First Nation claims they have been excluded from the planning of these road projects, asserting their jurisdiction and the need for their valuable Indigenous knowledge and insights to guide any road development activities in their territory (Aroland First Nation, 2020).

4.2.1.1.2 Constance Lake First Nation

Historical Background

Constance Lake First Nation was originally known as English River First Nation and the village is located along the shores of the Pagwa River (Constance Lake, N.D). Constance Lake First Nation is an Oji-Cree community that also includes people from the Albany and Attawapiskat Bands (Daigle, 2010). The commissioners who arrived in 1905 had decided that the First Nations at English River were part of the band residing in Albany, and it was not necessary to have them sign the Treaty. 12 square miles were outlined in the schedule of reserves as part of Treaty No. 9 (Constance Lake, ND). Between 1925-1940, many families relocated to Pagwa from the English River to follow employment opportunities. On March 16, 1945, an Order of Council was passed that set aside this land along the Pagwa River as a reserve for Constance Lake First Nation (Constance Lake, N.D).

Community Values and Aspirations

Constance Lake signed an exploration agreement with Noble Mineral Exploration in 2022 to work on mineral lands within the community's traditional territory (Northern Ontario Business Staff, 2022a). The agreement "establishes a framework for consultation and accommodation with the community but also opens the door for the First Nation to benefit from early-stage exploration work" (Northern Ontario Business Staff, 2022a).

Constance Lake First Nation is one of 10 northern First Nations who have launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023). They have requested that the Canadian government be barred from making any decisions about how land could be used without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centres on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written promises of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The Nations are arguing that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023).

Constance Lake First Nation shared concerns about the Project, specifically regarding their current lack of resources for a thorough technical review, the prioritization of environmental protections, and the expectation that the Project Team upholds commitments in the ToR for meaningful engagement, transparency, and open discussions (Constance Lake First Nation, 2020).

4.2.1.1.3 Fort Albany First Nation

Historical Background

The original HBC Fort of this region was built in 1674 and was on the south shore near the mouth of the Albany River and present-day Fort Albany. It was captured by Pierre de Troyes in 1686 and temporarily named Fort Ste. Anne. Two year later, the HBC established a second post on Bayley's Island, now known as Albany Island, and subsequently dislodged the French. In 1905 the post at Albany Island was the headquarters of the Albany district and the James Bay district. Indigenous families and clans from many of the surrounding areas came here to sell their furs. The HBC Post on Albany Island was abandoned in 1959 and is now referred to as Old Post; people hold Indian Days there each August and tend to the graveyards (Long, 2010).

Descendants of those who moved to the south shore of the Albany River (to be near the Roman Catholic mission complex) now form the Fort Albany First Nation community. Those who moved to the north shore of the Albany River are now known as the Kashechewan First Nation (Long, 2010).

Community Values and Aspirations

Fort Albany First Nation views land in the following way: as a complex being; as crucial to healing from the impacts of colonialism; as a spiritual/material place; as not merely a resource; and as a relative (Fort Albany First Nation, 2022).

Fort Albany First Nation Vision Statement: "Guided by the seven sacred grandfather teachings and grounded in our natural environment, we endeavor to be self-sustaining by partnering with internal/external services and promoting education as a foundation for a balanced and healthier community for the Peetabeck people" (Fort Albany First Nation, 2022).

Fort Albany is one of 10 northern First Nations who have launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023). They have requested that the Canadian government be barred from making any decisions about how land could be used without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centers on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written promises of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The Nations are arguing that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023).

Fort Albany First Nation raised concerns regarding the potential effects of the Project on their territory, rights, and interests. They emphasized the need for meaningful engagement, requesting the consideration of cumulative impacts and their involvement in the planning process, given their jurisdiction and valuable knowledge (Fort Albany First Nation, 2020).

4.2.1.1.4 Ginoogaming First Nation

Historical Background

Ginoogaming First Nation (formerly known as Long Lake Reserve #77) is located within the boundaries of James Bay Treaty No. 9 made in 1905 and officially created through signing an adhesion to this Treaty on August 9, 1906 (Ginoogaming First Nation, ND).

Community Values and Aspirations

Ginoogaming is seeking an interlocutory injunction to prevent mineral exploration on sacred land (Wiisinin Zaahgi'gan) in part of its traditional territory; seeking permanent protection and compensation for past harms; wants any (possible) mining claims removed (TbnewsWatch Staff, 2023). In September 2021, they received an extension of an interim injunction preventing exploration firms to explore an area that Ginoogaming First Nation had declared to be sacred and culturally significant (TbnewsWatch Staff, 2023).

Ginoogaming is one of 10 northern First Nations who have launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023). They have requested that the Canadian government be barred from making any decisions about how land could be used without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centres on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written promises of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The Nations are arguing that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023).

Ginoogaming expressed understanding of the transportation challenges faced by Webequie First Nation and acknowledged the positive connection and bond between the two communities. However, Ginoogaming is disappointed in the lack of internal capacity and funding support, which hinders their ability to fully participate and be appropriately consulted in the Project EA (Ginoogaming First Nation, 2020).

4.2.1.1.5 Kashechewan First Nation

Historical Background

During the 1950's, the Fort Albany 67 Reserve divided into two communities (Kashechewan First Nation and Fort Albany First Nation) due to religious differences (Five Nations, 2012). The Anglican group (Kashechewan First Nation) were relocated to the northern shoreline of the river, in a flood prone area (CNews Staff, 2017). In the 1950's and 1960's, most members of the Albany Band resided on an island in the Albany River, off the Treaty reserve land, but when government representatives suggested they would be better supported on reserve, a considerable portion of the Albany Band moved to the northern shoreline of the Albany River, onto reserve land, to what is now known as Kashechewan (Kashechewan First Nation, 2022).

Community Values and Aspirations

Kashechewan First Nation has outlined that the "lands and waters are vital elements of the cultural and spiritual existence of our First Nations since time immemorial (KFN and MNRF, 2017). Kashechewan First Nation will pursue sustainable economic development opportunities and maintain their First Nation way of life with the land water (KFN and MNRF, 2017).

Kashechewan First Nation signed an Impact Benefit Agreement with DeBeers in February 2009 for the Victor Mine (diamond) (DeBeers Group, 2023). The agreement came into effect July 2009 and included provisions regarding implementation of the agreement, education, training, employment and business opportunities related to the operation of the mine, protection of the environment, support of community and cultural practices and compensation for any loss of or impact on traditional lands or way of life during operation of the mine (Newswire, 2009).

Kashechewan First Nation has requested that Ontario retract the draft TOR and "restart the Ring of Fire consultation process to ensure it is mutually and equally co-developed, co-led and co-enforced by First Nations" (Raventrust, 2022). Kashechewan is one of 10 northern First Nations who have launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023). They have requested that the Canadian government be barred from making any decisions about how land could be used without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centres on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written promises of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The Nations are arguing that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023).

4.2.1.1.6 Kingfisher Lake First Nation

Historical Background

In 1808, HBC created an outpost at Big Beaver House, which is 12 km southwest of the present Kingfisher Lake reserve. From 1929-1930, leaders of Kingfisher Lake participated in the signing of Treaty No. 9 and as a result of this signing, they were considered part of Big Trout Lake Band (Kingfisher Lake, N.D). In 1964, the leaders of Kingfisher Lake decided to move and establish a permanent community at their current location of the reserve lands. Kingfisher Lake gained band status in 1975 (Kingfisher Lake, N.D).

Historically, the Kingfisher Lake First Nation utilized their land for hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering plants (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). There was a heavy dependence on rivers as a resource, especially the Ashweig River, Pipestone River, and connect rivers between Maria Lake and Wunnummin Lake First Nation. Although some residents of Kingfisher Lake First Nation were once residents of Big Trout Lake First Nation, the land within Big Trout Lake homeland was rarely utilized. Summer and winter travel routes were historically used to connect with neighbouring communities, such as Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation and Wunnummin Lake first Nation (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

Community Values and Aspirations

The collective vision statement of Shibogama First Nation Council, which Kingfisher Lake is part of, is a collective vision of "Payahtakenemowin" (peace of mind) for the Shibogama Communities. "We are strong, healthy people who respect and support all creation according to the teachings of our Elders." (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023).

TKG Group was established in 2018 and is owned equally by Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin and Wunnumin Lake First Nations. The group, based in Thunder Bay, works to generate new economic opportunities for its communities. "This is our first business acquisition that will directly service our First Nations," said Jonathon Mamakwa, President of the TKG Group. "This is key in our overall plan in contributing to the development of healthy First Nation communities with vibrant economies that support future generations" (Dryden Now, 2023).

4.2.1.1.7 Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation

Historical Background

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, also known as Big Trout Lake, is located at the head water of the Fawn River and confluence of the Severn River with Hudson Bay, and is along a major canoe route (Hudec, 1964). The Northwest Company, in 1793, had a trading post at the east end of Big Trout Lake, and in 1830 HBC built a post at Post

Island (Hudec, 1964). Through radiocarbon dating, human bones that have been discovered near Big Trout Lake indicate that the people settled in Big Trout Lake territory over 5,000 years ago (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023).

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation has historically been an important location during the late fur trade period, as the area served as a centre for communication and supplies and later became the principal reserve community with government administrative services, medical services, and schools (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Trapping territories historically were wide ranging, in part due to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation building connections with groups from distant homelands (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Members of the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation have historically used several summer and winter roads to connect with other communities and access land resources.

Community Values and Aspirations

In 2008, six members of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation were jailed as they resisted a mining company's (Platinex) efforts to explore on Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug traditional lands. In 2009, Ontario paid Platinex $5 million to settle a lawsuit and resolve the company's litigation against Ontario and the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation over the company's Big Trout Lake Property (Energy, Northern Development and Mines, 2009). Platinex surrendered their mining claims and leases at Big Trout Lake (Energy, Northern Development and Mines, 2009).

TKG Group was established in 2018 and is owned equally by Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin and Wunnumin Lake First Nations. The group, based in Thunder Bay, works to generate new economic opportunities for its communities. "This is our first business acquisition that will directly service our First Nations," said Jonathon Mamakwa, President of the TKG Group. "This is key in our overall plan in contributing to the development of healthy First Nation communities with vibrant economies that support future generations" (Dryden Now, 2023).

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug is one of 10 northern First Nations who have launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal government in April 2023 (McIntosh, 2023). They have requested that the Canadian government be barred from making any decisions about how land could be used without Indigenous consent. The lawsuit centres on Treaty No. 9 and the contrast between the verbal and written promises of Treaty No. 9 as recorded (McIntosh, 2023). The Nations are arguing that they did not cede or surrender their territories, and that Treaty No. 9 did not give the Ontario government the right to allow resource extraction (McIntosh, 2023). Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug is also part of an alliance with Grassy Narrows, Wapekeka and Neskantaga to defend their lands and waters against mining prospectors (Alhmidi, 2023).

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug is a part of the "East-West Ring of Fire Coalition", along with Lac Seul, Cat Lake, and Slate Falls First Nations and municipality of Sioux Lookout, which have been advocating for support in development of an east-west permanent road for Ring of Fire. The coalition attended Mining Week in Toronto to request government support for an east-west road (Northern Ontario Business, 2020).

On April 1, 2023, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Family Law came into effect following the process where the law was passed through First Nations' community engagement process and was ratified by Chief and Council in November 2019. The law was developed under Bill C-92: An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families where a family law can be created. Based on the Anishininiimowin language, the law stands for "Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Dibenjikewin Onaakonikewin" (KIDO) and is an exercise of the First Nation's miinikozowin (inherent right) to self-governance and jurisdiction over dibenjikewinan (families) that are dashikewininiwak (First Nations Members) or are living within the lands of the First Nation. Under the law, the members of the First Nations can seek a community safe home and foster care (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023).

4.2.1.1.8 Long Lake #58 First Nation

Historical Background

Long Lake #58 First Nation is located on a 1 square mile tract of land since 1905. Long Lake #58 First Nation never signed a treaty with the Crown (Long Lake #58, 2023a). Long Lake #58 First Nation members have been important contributors to the creation of Ginoogaming and Aroland First Nations (Long Lake #58, 2023a). Expropriation in favour of the railway and highway has significantly decreased the size of Long Lake #58's land. The development of hydroelectricity in the area led to flooding that eroded even more of their land (Long Lake #58, 2023a). In 2020, 1,690 ha were added to the reserve under the federal Additions to Reserves policy which includes mine and minerals (TbnewsWatch Staff, 2020).

Community Values and Aspirations

In 1990, members of Long Lake #58 blocked the Canadian National Railway line running through their reserve to bring attention to the Oka crisis and to the fact that the community's traditional lands have bever been the object of treaty negotiations with the Crown (Hall, 1991). In 2016, Long Lake #58 First Nation initiated a revenue sharing study that includes an in-depth analysis of the revenue sharing market for the Ring of Fire and development revenue sharing models that will provide a basis for negotiating revenue sharing agreements with Ontario for mining initiatives (Long Lake #58, 2023b). In 2017, Long Lake #58 First Nation developed a land code that outlined that authority over land management be returned to Long Lake #58 First Nation (Long Lake #58, 2023c). In 2018, Long Lake #58 First Nation signed a Definitive Agreement with Premier and Centerra Gold Inc. in regard to the development and operation of the Hardrock Project (Premier Gold Mines Limited, 2018). The agreement "establishes increased clarity regarding Greenstone Gold Mines' ability to develop and Long Lake #58 First Nation's opportunity to benefit from future mining opportunities in the region with the potential to extend the life of this Project beyond its current 15-year lifespan" (Premier Gold Mines Limited, 2018). Long Lake #58 First Nation asserted their Aboriginal Title Claim to a large tract of land that was recently withdrawn by the Ontario government from prospecting and mining claim registrations in January 2023 (Northern Ontario Business, 2023).

Long Lake #58 First Nation firmly maintained their control over their traditional territories and emphasized that approval for projects within their territories cannot be granted by external entities. They expressed concerns about the potential effects on their Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, particularly with the planned advancement of the Northern Road Link project that directly crosses their traditional territories (Long Lake #58 First Nation, 2020).

Long Lake #58 First Nation held a sense of disappointment and frustration regarding the Project. They expressed their keenness to be engaged in the consultation process and their understanding of Webequie First Nation's transportation needs, but their current lack of resources hinders their ability to participate fully in the EA/IA process (Long Lake #58 First Nation, 2020).

4.2.1.1.9 Métis Nation of Ontario

Historical Background

The Métis People emerged in the historic "North-West" of what is now Canada. The Métis developed its a collective identity with their own language (Michif), culture, traditions and way of life (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2017a). The Supreme Court of Canada recognized the Métis People as "one of the "Indigenous peoples who were living in the western territories" prior to Canada's westward expansion into the North-West after confederation" (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023a). In Ontario, it is recognized that distinct Métis communities emerged in areas around the upper Great Lakes and along waterways that were used by the fur trade prior to European control in these regions (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023a). In 1993, the Métis Nation of Ontario was established as a Métis-specific governance structure for Ontario Métis communities (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023b). The *Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, 2015,*

acknowledges that Ontario Métis established the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to represent them democratically at local, regional and provincial levels (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2017a).

In 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Powley,* found "the inclusion of the Métis in Section 35 represents Canada's commitment to recognize and value the distinctive Métis cultures, which grew up in areas not yet open to colonization, and which the framers of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognized can only survive if the Métis are protected along with other aboriginal communities" (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2017a).

The history of the Ontario Métis north of Lake Superior includes a distinctive community, with its own collective identity and shared customs, practices and traditions (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2017b). The historic record shows a population of Métis people developed amongst the trading communities around trading posts over successive generations, and kinship ties and marriages between Métis families occurring over time.

Community Values and Aspirations

Métis Nation of Ontario have declared that they were founded to "bind their people together to collectively promote our common culture, social, political, and economic well-being…and have Métis Nation of Ontario be their representative body" (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023). This includes (but not limited to) encourage participation of all Métis, re-establishing land and resource bases, developing prosperity and economic self sufficiency promoting the history, culture, language and traditions and promote the improved health and wellness of individuals and families (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023).

4.2.1.1.10 Mishkeegogamang First Nation

Historical Background

Mishkeegogamang First Nation are Ojibway people, and they acknowledge that their people originated from the Great Lakes area (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010a). Historically, people were not organized into bands, and they migrated with the seasons traveling in family groups of 12 to 30 people (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010a). Traditionally, they would meet at locations in the summer for celebrations and for the annual fishing. HBC established posts on Hudson's Bay and James Bay and in 1786, a post was created – Osnaburgh House (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010a). In 1905, as part of Treaty No. 9, the Treaty commissioners and the people agreed on two pieces of land for reserves, which were called Osnaburgh 63A and 63B (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010a). The Band and council system were instituted for the people who traded at Osnaburgh House. By the 1950's, there were two churches, 30 homes and a council hall at the site of the Old Village, across from the lake of Osnaburgh House (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010a). In 1993, Mishkeegogamang First Nation changed their name from Osnaburgh to their current traditional name (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010a).

Community Values and Aspirations

Mishkeegogamang First Nation website outlines that there are concerns with mining and lumbering operating on their traditional lands outside of the reserve (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010b). In 2022, Mishkeegogamang First Nation signed an exploration agreement with AuTECO Minerals and are now part owner of the company (Northern Ontario Business Staff, 2022).

4.2.1.1.11 North Caribou Lake First Nation

Historical Background

North Caribou Lake First Nation, also known as Weagamow Lake First Nation, or Round Lake, historically moved around periodically to exploit seasonable resources (Gordon, 1983). They had a series of "home base camps" along the shore as well as temporary "satellite camps" (Gordon, 1983). In 1910, an Anglican church was built at the location where North Caribou Lake First Nation would meet every summer – Atikup Point (Gordon, 1983). Atikup is the Cree word for "caribou lake." There is evidence that there was an early settlement from Northwest Company at North Caribou

Lake around 1809 (Gordon, 1983). When Treaty No. 9 was signed, the people of North Caribou Lake, Weagomow Lake and Windigo Lake were joined together as Caribou Lake Band (Gordon, 1983). In the late 1930's, an HBC outpost was built on North Caribou Lake. As the railway was built, the role of the Albany River as a major supply route was eliminated (Gordon, 1983). By the late 1930's, 'camp trade' was carried on at North Caribou Lake with goods supplied by air from another post.

Community Values and Aspirations

In 2015, North Caribou Lake First Nation entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Romios Gold Resources Inc. (Burega, 2015). In 2017, an all-season road and bridge was built to North Caribou Lake First Nation which ended the community's reliance on the unreliable winter road network. The bridge provides safer and easier access to the permanent road system (Northern Ontario Business Staff, 2017). North Caribou Lake First Nation is also part of a formal agreement with Newmont Musselwhite Mine that includes revenue sharing, employment, training and business development opportunities (Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission, N.D).

4.2.1.1.12 Wapekeka First Nation

Historical background

Wapekeka First Nation was once considered as part of the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Band but obtained its own Band status in 1976 (Randazz and Robidoux, 2018). The history of the Wapekeka First Nation includes a community that has close kinship ties with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The southern tributaries of the Severn and Fawn Rivers was historically utilized as the main homeland area for Wapekeka First Nation (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). There was a heavy dependence on rivers as a resource, especially Big Trout Lake, Long Lake, Wapekeka Lake and tributaries of the Severn and Fawn River (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

The Wapekeka First Nation had two main summer travel routes – one along Wapekeka Lake and the other the Fawn River route. The Wapekeka Lake summer travel route was historically used for three primary reasons: as employees of HBC, for members in search of work in Fort Severn or Church hill and for social and family visits. The Fawn River route was historically used as an important HBC supply route to the coastal communities, but after World War II, supplies were flown in by air to these communities.

Community Values and Aspirations

In 2005, Wapekeka First Nation joined with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake), Muskrat Dam and Wawakapewin to declare a moratorium on mining exploration and forestry on their traditional land (Mining Watch, 2005). They outlined they that they have the right to own, control and use the lands and territories as they have traditionally owned and occupied them (Mining Watch, 2005). Wapekeka First Nation is currently part of an alliance with Grassy Narrows, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and Neskantaga to defend their lands and waters against mining prospectors (Alhmidi, 2023).

TKG Group was established in 2018 and is owned equally by Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin and Wunnumin Lake First Nations. The group, based in Thunder Bay, works to generate new economic opportunities for its communities. "This is our first business acquisition that will directly service our First Nations," said Jonathon Mamakwa, President of the TKG Group. "This is key in our overall plan in contributing to the development of healthy First Nation communities with vibrant economies that support future generations," he adds (Dryden Now, 2023).

4.2.1.1.13 Wawakapewin First Nation

Historical Background

The community of Wawakapewin First Nation is one of the smallest in Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. “The Wawakapewin area had been very important not only to its’ people but also to people and family clans from surrounding and outlaying communities, including Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Wapekeka and Kasabonika Lake First Nations. This was due to the abundance of fish and game that is always present in the area caused by the convergence of four river systems into the Asheweig River which in turn flows into the Winisk River” (Wawakapewin First Nation, 2023a). Wawakapewin First Nation have close connections with Wapekeka First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). There was a heavy dependence on rivers as a resource, especially Big Trout Lake, Long Dog Lake and Bug-Mishwamakan River (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The historic record shows a population of Wawakapewin First Nation developed amongst the trading communities around trading posts over successive generations, and kinship ties and marriages between families occurring over time.

Community Values and Aspirations

Wawakapewin First Nation is currently exploring the feasibility of an all-season access road to Kasabonika Lake First Nation. This could be explored as part of the Asheweig Winter Roads Corporation realignment (Wawakapewin First Nation, 2023b).

The collective vision statement of Shibogama First Nation Council, which Wawakapewin is part of, is “Payahtakenemowin” (peace of mind) for the Shibogama Communities. “We are strong, healthy people who respect and support all creation according to the teachings of our Elders.” (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023).

The ToR for their CBLUP identifies some key elements: the customs and practices of the Innineewuk are referred to as “Innineewuk Dodaamowin”. These are derived from “Natural Law”, the “Great Law” as given by the Creator and referred to as “ohtoonachcikawin”, the order of the Creator. The Innineewuk understand ohnacchikawin to be a conceptual framework that governs their primary relationships and responsibilities amongst themselves and every other aspect of their lives, referred to as, “nisootawaytamowin” or as understood.

The way of life, “natoopematesoowin”, sometimes referred to as “akiwpemateeswin” or earth life is the customs of the people and conforms to the nisootawayamowin which includes the spirit life (achakacopemateesowin) contained in the ohnacchikawin (Wawakapewin First Nation, 2014).

Wawakapewin First Nation is a partner in the Thawikayhigan Limited Partnership (TKG Group), established in 2018, and which is owned equally by Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin and Wunnumin Lake First Nations. The group, based in Thunder Bay, works to generate new economic opportunities for its communities. “This is our first business acquisition that will directly service our First Nations,” said Jonathon Mamakwa President of the TKG Group. “This is key in our overall plan in contributing to the development of healthy First Nation communities with vibrant economies that support future generations” (Dryden Now, 2023).

In September 2023, it was announced that the community of Wawakapewin is now connected to the provincial electricity system through the construction and operation of the Wataynikaneyap Power project (Wataynikaneyap Power, 2023). Lack of reliable power meant that limits were placed on the growth of the community, and now as a part owner of Wataynikaneyap Power, Wawakapewin First Nation is pleased to replace diesel generators as the primary source of electricity (Wataynikaneyap Power, 2023).

4.2.1.1.14 Wunnumin Lake First Nation

Historical Background

Residences of Wunnumin Lake First Nation originated from Big Beaver House as this was a major HBC trading post (Wunnumin, 2010). Once the community at Big Beaver House was destroyed by a forest fire, the community was abandoned and relocated to two areas – Kingfisher Lake and Wunnumin Lake – 40 miles east of Big Beaver House (Wunnumin, 2010). During 1929-1930, the leaders of Wunnumin Lake First Nation were summoned to Big Trout Lake to participate in the signing of the adhesion to Treaty No. 9. Wunnumin Lake was established in the early 1960's and obtained reserve status on March 2, 1976 (Wunnumin, 2010).

Community Values and Aspirations

Wunnumin Lake First Nation is part of a formal agreement with Newmont Musselwhite Mine that outlines revenue sharing, employment, training and business development opportunities (Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission, N.D).

TKG Group was established in 2018 and is owned equally by Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin and Wunnumin Lake First Nations. The group, based in Thunder Bay, works to generate new economic opportunities for its communities. "This is our first business acquisition that will directly service our First Nations," said Jonathon Mamakwa, President of the TKG Group. "This is key in our overall plan in contributing to the development of healthy First Nation communities with vibrant economies that support future generations" (Dryden Now, 2023).

4.2.2 Municipalities, Cities and Towns

The RSA includes the Municipality of Greenstone, the Township of Pickle Lake, the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, the City of Thunder Bay and the City of Timmins, all located in northern Ontario.

The Municipality of Greenstone is an amalgamation of townships (Nakina, Geraldton and Long Lac), stretching along Highway 11 from Lake Nipigon to Longlac.

The Township of Pickle Lake is located northwest of Thunder Bay at the current northern terminus of the provincial highway system, with Highway 599 access. The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is a town located northwest of Thunder Bay. The City of Thunder Bay is located on the northern shores of Lake Superior and is the most populous municipality in northern Ontario. The City of Timmins is located on the Mattagami River near the Ontario-Québec border and is the fourth-largest city in the northeastern Ontario region. These locations are further described in **Table 4-5**.

Section 4.2.2.1 provides a brief introduction of historical background, values and aspirations of municipalities in the RSA.

Table 4-5: Locations of Municipalities in the Regional Study Area

Community	Location
Greenstone	The Municipality of Greenstone is located approximately 205 km northeast of Thunder Bay. It is an amalgamation of several townships including: Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac, Nakina, and their surrounding areas generally located along Highway 11 in northern Ontario.
Pickle Lake	The Town of Pickle Lake is located approximately 530 km north of Thunder Bay at the northern terminus of Highway 556 in northern Ontario.
Sioux Lookout	The Town of Sioux Lookout is located approximately 350 km northwest of Thunder Bay at the northern terminus of Highway 72.
Thunder Bay	The City of Thunder Bay is located along the Trans-Canada Highway on the northern shores of Lake Superior.

Community	Location
Timmins	The City of Timmins is located approximately 700 km north of Toronto along the Mattagami River in northeastern Ontario.

Source: Ontario GeoHub (Ontario, 2023)

4.2.2.1 Historical Overview, Values and Aspirations of Municipalities in the Regional Study Area

4.2.2.1.1 Township of Pickle Lake

Historical Background

In 1786, HBC established the Osnaburgh House trading post along the shores of Lake St. Joseph. The fur trade was a major industry until 1928, when gold was discovered along the Kawinogans River (Pickle Lake, 2023a). Pickle Lake, which currently has a population of approximately 400, was the closest lake to the new gold mines and became the hub of the area (Pickle Lake, 2023a). In 1934, Claude Hooker staked the east shore of Pickle Lake and built a general store and by 1935, the area was booming (Sunset Country, 2023). The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests opened a base at Pickle Lake in the early 1930's to help meet the requirements of the mining companies (Sunset Country, 2023). The mining town went through cycles of prosperity with the mines but once the two gold mines stopped production, this ended the 30 years of the gold mining economy. Several more mines opened and closed close to Pickle Lake, but it is no longer a typical mining town (Pickle Lake, 2023a). Pickle Lake became incorporated as a township in 1980 and is a hub for people and goods travelling by winter road to First Nation communities in northern Ontario otherwise only accessible by plane (Pickle Lake, 2023a).

Community Values and Aspirations

Pickle Lake's economy focuses on services and transportation to the northern First Nation communities. The economy depends on the movement of goods and services to as many as 20 communities including four First Nation communities closest to the Ring of Fire (CE Strategies, 2017).

The mandate of the Township of Pickle Lake Economic Development office is to be "focused on inspiring economic growth and fostering collaborative partnership for our community […] with the expansion of hydro transmission through Pickle Lake and the increase in mining exploration and development, our future is brimming with commercial prospects." (Pickle Lake, 2023b).

4.2.2.1.2 Municipality of Sioux Lookout

Historical Background

The name Sioux Lookout comes from the area being used as a strategic vantage point where guards could see canoes approaching on the English River System (Sioux Lookout, 2022). The Town of Sioux Lookout was incorporated in 1912 when it was connected to Ontario via the railway. The Graham Station (now the Sioux Lookout Heritage Railway Station) was the largest built in northern Ontario during that time. It was a hub for transporting goods and people and the primary source of economic growth in the northwest (Northern Ontario, 2023). Initially it was a gold and iron mining town and a railway terminal point (Sioux Lookout, 2022).

Community Values and Aspirations

Sioux Lookout has outlined their strategic priorities for the community in their Strategic Plan: Innovation & Development, Community Wellness, Regional Collaboration, Community Engagement, and Operational Excellence (Municipality of Sioux Lookout, 2020).

Sioux Lookout is used as a hub for providing health services, education and training, and e-commerce to 33 First Nation communities in the North. The Sioux Lookout Mining Centre of Excellence is a partnership with Northern College's Haileybury School of Mines, nine mining companies, four First Nation communities and the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord to provide financial support, training opportunities and jobs (Northern Ontario Business Staff, 2022b).

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is also a part of the "East-West Ring of Fire Coalition" (along with Lac Seul, Cat Lake, Slate Falls, and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation communities) which lobbied for government support to develop an east-west road into Ring of Fire. The coalition attended Mining Week in Toronto to request government support for an east-west road (Northern Ontario Business, 2020).

4.2.2.1.3 City of Thunder Bay

Historical Background

The connection between Lake Superior and the Kaministiquia River was an important link for the fur trade and in 1678, and the French built a base called Fort Caminstogoyan (City of Thunder Bay, 2018). When it was taken over by the Northwest Company in 1803, it was renamed as Fort William (City of Thunder Bay, 2018). This area was the centre of the Canadian fur trade economy where trappers met traders and exchanged goods (City of Thunder Bay, 2018). Another settlement to the north of Fort William, Port Arthur was also created during this time. Port Arthur and Fort William amalgamated in 1970 and created the City of Thunder Bay (City of Thunder Bay, 2018).

Community Values and Aspirations

The 2023-2026 strategic plan is currently under development. The current vision for the City is "One City, Growing Together" with priorities that include: growth and prosperity, community safety and well being, cost effective and quality services to citizens, financially sustainability and environmental stewardship (City of Thunder Bay, 2022).

The City of Thunder Bay has created a "Mining Readiness Strategy" to guide the City to support the growing northern Ontario Mining sector (Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission, 2020). The strategy includes recommendations to support the mining activities.

4.2.2.1.4 Municipality of Greenstone

Historical Background

The Ojibway and Cree communities were the original inhabitants of the Greenstone region. European settlers arrived in the late 1600s, initiating the fur trade with the French, English, and First Nation communities (Municipality of Greenstone, 2021). The development of railroads in the early 1900s facilitated settlement and agricultural development in Northeastern Ontario (Municipality of Greenstone, 2021). Greenstone's history is closely tied to the mining industry, with significant mineral extraction activities shaping the region (Municipality of Greenstone, 2021). The municipality was officially incorporated on January 1, 2001, bringing together several smaller communities under one administrative umbrella (Archives of Ontario, 2023; National Energy Board, 1997).

Community Values and Aspirations

The economy of Greenstone is significantly influenced by resource extraction due to its strategic location. Greenstone is emerging as a key player in Northern Ontario's mining sector, particularly with its involvement in the Ring of Fire mining projects (Northern Ontario Business, 2025). The region is home to substantial mineral deposits, including gold and nickel, which drive its economic activities (MECP, 2021). Renald Beaulieu, Mayor of Greenstone, emphasized the municipality's potential in advancing Northern Ontario's economic landscape and positioning Greenstone as a gateway to critical mineral developments (Northern Ontario Business, 2025). Local projects, such as the Hardrock Gold Mine, highlight the economic opportunities that Greenstone offers (Municipality of Greenstone, 2021a).

4.2.2.1.5 City of Timmins

Historical Background

Ojibway and Cree communities were early inhabitants of the region (Heritage Trust, 2012). Europeans arrived in the late 1600's which initiated the fur trade with the French, English and First Nation communities (Heritage Trust, 2012). During the 1900's railroads in Northeastern Ontario developed to initiate settlement and develop agricultural potential (Torlone, 1979). The City of Timmins stems from the mineral extraction industry. By 1909, the Timmins brothers, mining promoters, formed a syndicate and began purchasing various mining properties within the area (Torlone, 1979). In 1911, a large fire destroyed "the Porcupine" (the area encompassing the mining development, including Timmins) and the settlement was devastated (Torlone, 1979). After the fire, under the direction of Noah Timmins, the foundation for the Town of Timmins was laid out and he was responsible for planning of the town and named the town (Torlone, 1979). The Town was incorporated as a municipality on January 1, 1912 with a population of 600 (Torlone, 1979).

Community Values and Aspirations

The economy of Timmins is largely based on resource extraction given its location. The Timmins region is the largest producer of gold and is centrally located to the metal mining operations in the area (Invest Ontario, 2021). George Pirie, Mayor of Timmins from 2018-2022, said: "There is tremendous opportunity to advance northern Ontario and position Timmins as a leader in the Electric Vehicles supply chain. Local nickel developments such as Canada Nickel's Crawford Nickel Sulphide project reaffirm the economic potential that Timmins has to offer." (Invest Ontario, 2021).

4.2.3 Collection of Primary Information

4.2.3.1 Community Socio-Economic Surveys

Indigenous communities in the LSA and RSA (listed in **Table 2-2**) were invited to participate in Socio-Economic surveys, through the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program invitation letter. Indigenous community members were able to choose to complete some or all of the survey themselves (and were also provided with capacity to hire survey administrators from the community), or to facilitate visits by consultants to either train or administer the surveys within the community or off-reserve. The communities that completed surveys to-date and the corresponding number of surveys completed are listed in **Table 4-6**.

Table 4-6: Indigenous Communities Participation in Socio-Economic Surveys

Community	Year	Number of Surveys Completed
Webequie First Nation	2021	238
Marten Falls First Nation	2022	13
Weenusk First Nation	2023	30

The Socio-Economic survey was administered from 2021 to 2023 using a combination of in-person and online methods, including at community meetings, frequently visited locations within the community (e.g., at the community store and band office), and/or through Survey Monkey. Over the course of the survey period, due to the lifting of some COVID-19 policies, more in-person surveys took place as time went on.

The Socio-Economic survey was written in plain language and included questions regarding demographics (age, gender, income, education, employment), housing, social services, safety, and community cohesion. Surveys were also translated to Oji-Cree and/or Cree with the aid of a translator when administered in person, as required. Questions were developed based on the valued components and indicators for the Project as well as key requirements from the TISG,

commitments made in the ToR, knowledge of the communities, and secondary information collected and reviewed. The Socio-Economic survey questions are shown in **Appendix A**.

The Socio-Economic survey was initially developed with extensive input from Webequie First Nation Project Team members for questions to be applicable and accessible to community members. A draft survey was also piloted with community members for feedback and input. Other communities interested in completing Socio-Economic survey also received the questions in advance to review and update for their community. Feedback received from participants was integrated into the final version of the Socio-Economic survey. Additionally, a plain language Socio-Economic survey guide was developed to accompany the Socio-Economic survey, explaining the primary purpose for asking questions related to each topic and providing clear instruction on how to direct respondents through Socio-Economic survey completion. Socio-Economic survey administrators and community coordinators received a training session to help prepare them to administer the Socio-Economic survey, which involved reviewing the guide and the Survey Monkey version of the Socio-Economic survey in a live “trial run” setting.

Survey statistics were analyzed using Survey Monkey and NVivo, a qualitative software package that allows for systematic thematic analysis of large amounts of text-based information. Socio-Economic survey data have been disaggregated by gender, age, and other characteristics in order to identify narrative trends in responses. Socio-Economic survey findings have been made available for viewing and feedback as part of community engagement activities on the draft Socio-Economic Existing Conditions Report.

4.2.3.2 Focus Groups

Indigenous communities in the LSA and RSA (listed in **Table 2-2**) were invited to participate in Socio-Economic focus groups, through the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program invitation letter. Focus groups were undertaken with distinct sub-groups in the community, including youth, women, Elders and land users in May 2022 and February 2023. Focus groups allow for a richer and more in-depth understanding of experiences and issues to emerge based on differences within the communities. Focus groups were comprised of 3-6-participants each and lasted approximately 2 to 3 hours. Participants were recruited by community coordinators. The sessions were carried out either virtually via teleconference or in-person, depending on provincial and community COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time and participant preferences and comfort levels. They were recorded using audio recording with a notetaker present. Focus group questions developed in advance (**Appendix B**) were shared with participants beforehand.

Focus group participant interactions within focus groups have been found to produce a synergistic effect, which can generate a significant amount of information compared to interviews alone (Stewart et al., 2007; Berg, 1989, cited in Hay, 2016). As such, there were focus groups undertaken with distinct sub-groups, including women, men, Elders, youth (male and female), land users/knowledge keepers, and off-reserve members. These were undertaken with the goal of understanding the power disparities, inequalities, and vulnerabilities that are likely to exist in communities where industrial projects have the potential to exacerbate these vulnerabilities (Bond and Quinlan, 2018). The topics explored through these focus groups included the following and were based on TISG requirements, with targeted focus groups conducted for each topic identified in brackets:

- Development related experiences, aspirations, and concerns (women, youth, Elders and land user sub-groups);
- Access, ownership and control of resources e.g., financial, information (women);
- Education and training needs and interests (women, youth, Elders and land user sub-groups);
- Employment opportunities and barriers (women and youth);
- Project related and future mining development related safety; experiences of gender-based violence; and concerns about violence (women, female Elders, and female youth);
- Transportation and mobility (women, youth, Elders and land user sub-groups); and
- Access to emergency and support services and networks (women, youth, Elders and land user sub-groups).

To-date, focus groups have been held with Webequie First Nation community members. Copies of transcripts and/or findings have been provided to focus group participants for validation and feedback and all information collection adhered to the principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession Principles) (First Nations Information Governance Centre, 2021). Focus group information was organized and analysed with the aid of the NVivo.

Table 4-7 provides an overview of each focus group to-date, including the sub-group, number of participants, date, format, and key discussion topics.

Table 4-7: Overview of Focus Groups Held with Webequie First Nation Community Members

Focus Group	Number of Participants	Date	Format	Key Discussion Topics
Women	8	May 13, 2022	In Person	▪ Access to Land, Resources, Infrastructure and Services ▪ Safety ▪ Employment and Training
Youth (Initial)	2	May 13, 2022	In Person	▪ Enrolment and Education ▪ Employment and Training ▪ Access to Land, Resources, Infrastructure and Services ▪ Safety
Elders	10	February 22, 2023	In-Person	▪ Services ▪ Land and resource use ▪ Community cohesion
Youth	2	February 22, 2023	In-Person	▪ Youth activities
Land Users	4	February 23, 2023	In-Person	▪ Land and resource use ▪ Social issues

4.2.3.3 Knowledge Holder Interviews

Indigenous communities in the LSA and RSA (listed in **Table 2-2**) were invited to participate in Socio-Economic knowledge holder interviews, through the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program invitation letter. Knowledge holder interviews were conducted with knowledge holders, individuals possessing special knowledge or information to contribute to the WSR Socio-Economic Baseline. The list of questions developed for specific knowledge holder interview roles is shown in **Appendix C**. Special knowledge includes community infrastructure capacity and service availability/needs, history with developers, economic development goals and aspirations, Indigenous owned businesses, housing supply and demand, and crime rates. Knowledge holders included Webequie Chief and Council, Band administration staff, social services providers, Elders, and other community members, who were asked questions that also speak to the issues and needs of vulnerable sub-groups such as women, youth, and Elders. They were interviewed either by telephone, videoconference, or during in-person engagement and consultation activities. Interviews were recorded electronically to assist in the preparation of transcripts. Information gathered from the interviews were organized thematically.

Table 4-8 lists all knowledge holder interviews conducted from October 2021 to February 2023, including the name and role of each knowledge holder, the date of each interview, and key discussion topics.

Table 4-8: Knowledge Holder Interviews Conducted with Webequie First Nation

Role	Interview Date	Key Discussion Topics
Economic Development Officer	October 1, 2021	▪ Economic development ▪ Local businesses ▪ Procurement
Lands and Resources Director	March 1, 2022	▪ Land and resources use objectives ▪ Current land and resource-related projects and/or studies
Chief	March 1, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ Experiences with other development projects ▪ Major community revenue sources
Community Coordinator/Off-Reserve Liaison	March 1, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ Opportunities and services that may be needed with the WSR – particularly for youth
Esteemed Elder	March 1, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ Opportunities and services that may be needed with the WSR
Health Director	March 2, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ Access to services for health, well-being, and safety in the community, as well as barriers ▪ Future plans for service upgrades
Former Health Director	May 13, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ Access to services for health, well-being, and safety in the community, as well as barriers ▪ Future plans for service upgrades
Former Councillor	May 13, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ Experiences with other development projects ▪ Major community revenue sources
Former Councillor	May 13, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ Experiences with other development projects ▪ Major community revenue sources
School Principal	May 13, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ On-reserve and off-reserve school attendance rates ▪ Barriers to achieving higher levels of education ▪ Traditional education offerings
Employment Coordinator	May 13, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ On-reserve employment opportunities, including for youth ▪ Access to training and skills development
Housing Coordinator	May 13, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ On-reserve housing affordability ▪ Housing supply and demand, including overcrowding ▪ Housing quality ▪ Plans for additional housing

Role	Interview Date	Key Discussion Topics
Housing Coordinator	May 13, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ On-reserve housing affordability ▪ Housing supply and demand, including overcrowding ▪ Housing quality ▪ Plans for additional housing
Former Chief and Councillor for Webequie First Nation	July 21, 2022	▪ General social and economic issues and objectives/aspirations ▪ Child and family services ▪ Education and training ▪ Public works and infrastructure ▪ Community well-being, health and safety
Tikanigan Counsellor	February 22, 2023	▪ Child and family services ▪ Community social issues

5 Social Environment

This section describes the existing conditions of the social environment in the LSA and RSA, including:

- Population and demographics;
- Housing and accommodations;
- Community services;
- Recreation;
- Education and training services and facilities;
- Emergency and protective services;
- Community infrastructure;
- Transportation; and
- Community well-being and safety including both physical safety and cultural safety whereby people from all cultures feel safe and respected.

5.1 Population and Demographics

Population and demographic data are important tools used to assess Socio-Economic conditions in communities, as these data can also be used to identify vulnerable groups, such as women, disable persons, Elders and youth. These are segments of the population that could either benefit or be negatively impacted (directly or indirectly) by the Project and often experience barriers to participation under-represented groups. In an interview with the Economic Development Officer for Webequie First Nation, the growing registered population of the community has magnified existing problems in the on-reserve community because these problems that only affected a small number of individuals now affect more (SNC-Lavalin, 2021).

Population and demographics in the LSA and RSA are described in this section using the following indicators using Census data:

- Population overview, including gender and age;
- Indigenous identity (First Nation, Métis, Inuit or non-Indigenous);
- Languages;
- Mobility and migration; and
- Immigration data is unavailable for the Local Study Area.

These indicators provide insights into the existing Socio-Economic existing conditions where the Project is being considered. The information is to be used in the assessment of the potential effects of the Project and to develop strategies to mitigate any negative effects.

The following describes why each of these indicators is important:

- **Population overview, including gender and age:** Knowing the size, gender, and age distribution of the population in the LSA and RSA helps to understand the social context of the areas. The size of the population gives a sense of the scale of potential effects. Different age groups may be affected differently by environmental changes (e.g., people of working age). Gender data can help assess whether the project may have disproportionate effects on men or women.

- **Indigenous identity:** Identifying Indigenous persons in the LSA and RSA is critical for respecting Indigenous rights and for considering traditional knowledge in EAs. It's essential to engage with Indigenous communities in the planning process, to understand and minimize potential effects on their land, rights, and traditional practices.
- **Languages:** Information about languages spoken in the LSA and RSA can help in effective communication and engagement with local communities during the EA/IA process. It's important to provide information and collect feedback in the languages that people speak. Language information can also indicate cultural diversity and help in understanding the social fabric of the community.
- **Mobility and migration:** Knowing the existing patterns of movement and migration can help understand how the Project might affect these patterns with regards to community stability, workforce considerations, and can inform approach to engagement and consultation. This information can help in mitigating potential negative effects.
- **Immigration:** Information on immigration can provide insights into the diversity and dynamics of the population. Immigrants might have different cultural practices, vulnerabilities, or needs that should be considered. For instance, they might be more affected by changes in employment opportunities or require additional language support.

In summary, these indicators can help to assess the potential social and cultural impacts of the proposed Project, support effective engagement with local communities, and guide the development of strategies to avoid, mitigate, or compensate for potential negative effects.

5.1.1 Local Study Area

Webequie First Nation has a small declining population with limited in-migration to the community. Webequie First Nation has a 100% Indigenous population, with Oji-Cree spoken in nearly half of all households. The other seven First Nation communities that make up the LSA have small populations ranging from 243 to 1,586 as of 2021. The aggregate population of the other LSA Indigenous communities are projected to have a 60.4% increase in population over the projection period, increasing from 4,712 in 2021 to 7,106 in 2043. Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, and Eabametoong First Nation are all forecasted to decrease over the projection period while Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation are all forecasted to increase over the projection period. There is a small minority of non-Indigenous residents and very little in-migration to the communities. Indigenous languages are spoken in approximately a quarter of households.

While the overall proportion of the population aged 65 and over remains relatively low, the percentage of older individuals is expected to increase, reflecting a growing aging population trend. At the same time, the combined LSA population is projected to see substantial growth over the forecast period. The cultural composition of the LSA remains largely unchanged, with the vast majority of the population identifying as First Nations. The representation of other groups such as the Métis and non-Indigenous remain minimal. When it comes to the languages spoken at home, English is the dominant language; however, a considerable proportion of the population still uses Indigenous languages. Other non-official languages are spoken by a very small minority.

Finally, the LSA exhibits low levels of geographical mobility with the majority of residents choosing to stay in the same residence over the years.

The demographic data can help to understand the potential social and cultural impacts of the Project. It is used to inform decision-making, ensuring that any developments or interventions take into consideration the needs, livelihoods, rights, and cultural practices of the local populations.

Understanding these demographic trends helps to develop appropriate mitigation strategies and ensures that the proposed development respects the rights and interests of these communities.

5.1.1.1 Webequie First Nation

5.1.1.1.1 Population Overview

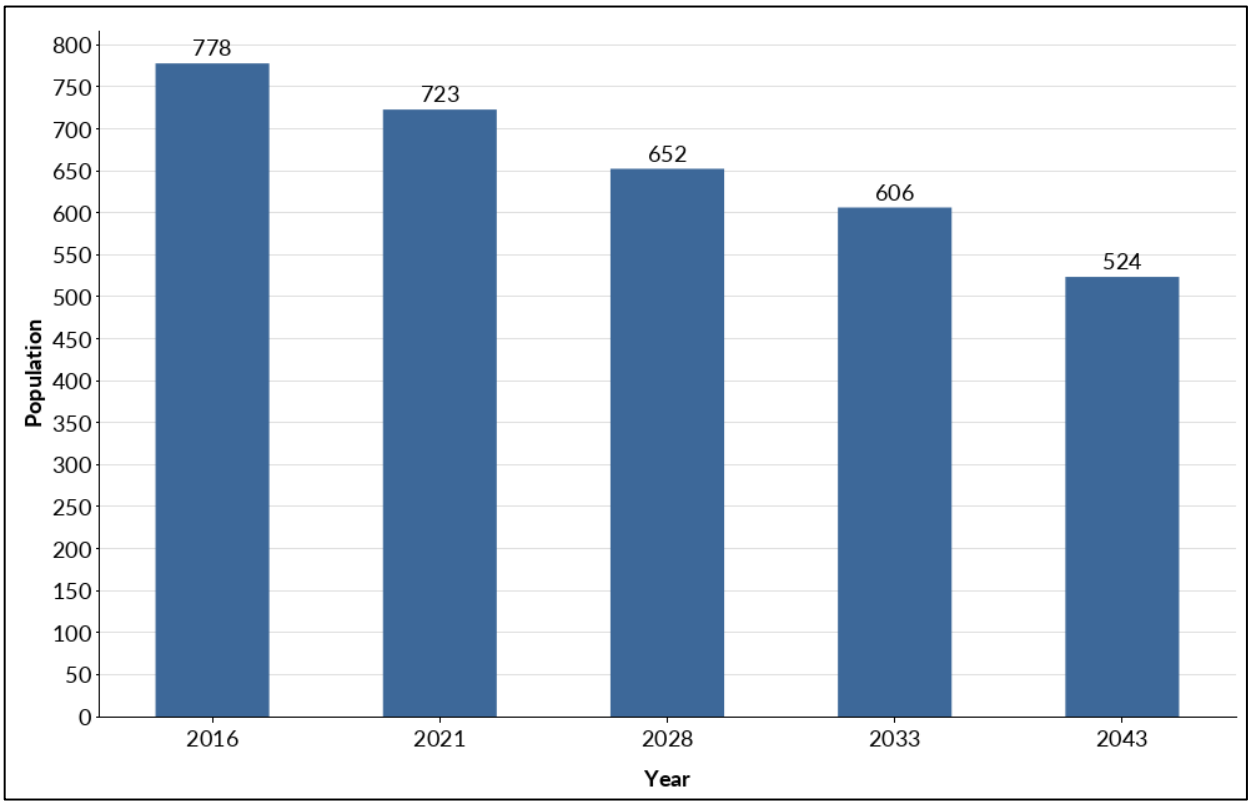
Figure 5-1 presents the total population for Webequie First Nation over the observation period, which includes actual population counts from Statistics Canada's Census of Population for 2016 and 2021, and projected estimates for 2028, 2033, and 2043.It is noted that the reported registered population of the communities varies from the Census of Population values. For instance, on-reserve registered population of Webequie is reported to be 821 as of July 2023 (CIRNAC, 2023a), and the Census of Population subdivision for Webequie is 723.

The Webequie population has generally remained stable with a minor decrease between 2016 and 2021 according to the Census which could be attributed to nuances in data gathering or shifts in migration. However, this trend is consistent with population forecasts for the wider Kenora census division.

The reductions between these two periods influence the population forecast because the CAGR assumes a continuing declining population. While the projection in **Figure 5-1** forecasts a decrease over the WSR lifecycle, further analysis and data verification is needed to confirm existing population dynamics.

Based off current growth trends, the population of Webequie First Nation is forecasted to decline by 254 between 2016 and 2043, a decrease of approximately 32.6%.

Figure 5-1: Historical and Projected Population, Webequie First Nation (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



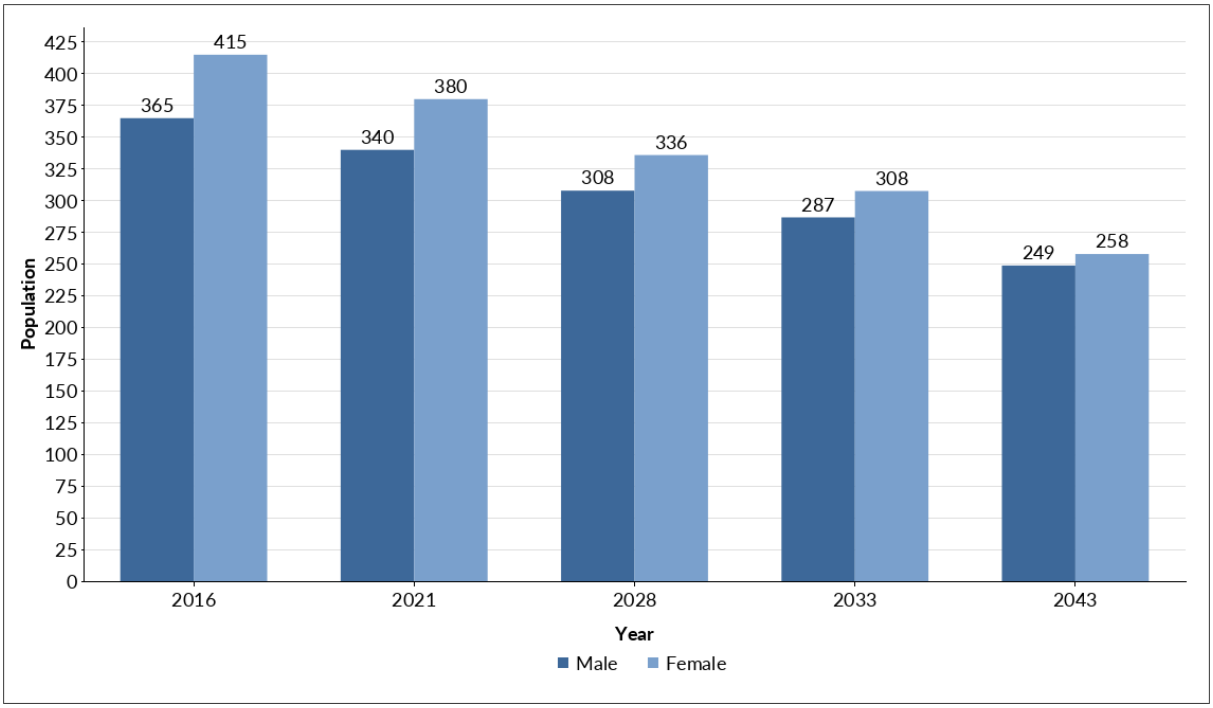
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

The 2021 Census included for the first time, a question on self-identified gender and added “at birth” to the gender question, which enabled cisgender, transgender and non-binary individuals to report their gender (Statistics Canada, 2023). **Figure 5-2** and **Table 5-1** present the forecasted population for Webequie over the projection period broken down by self-identified gender. Population trends by self-identified gender are summarized as follows:

- Over the projection period both the male and female populations are forecast to decrease;
- Between 2016 and 2043 the male population is forecast to decrease from 365 to 249, a 31.7% decrease;
- Between 2016 and 2043 the female population is forecast to decrease from 415 to 258, a 37.8% decrease; and
- The population distribution in Webequie is higher for the female population however the gap between male and female is closing.

Figure 5-2: Observed and Projected Population by Gender, Webequie (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-1: Observed and Projected Population by Gender, Webequie (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	780	100%	365	46.8%	415	53.2%
2021	720	100%	340	47.2%	380	52.8%
2028	644	100%	308	47.8%	336	52.7%
2033	595	100%	287	48.2%	308	51.8%
2043	507	100%	249	49.2%	258	50.8%

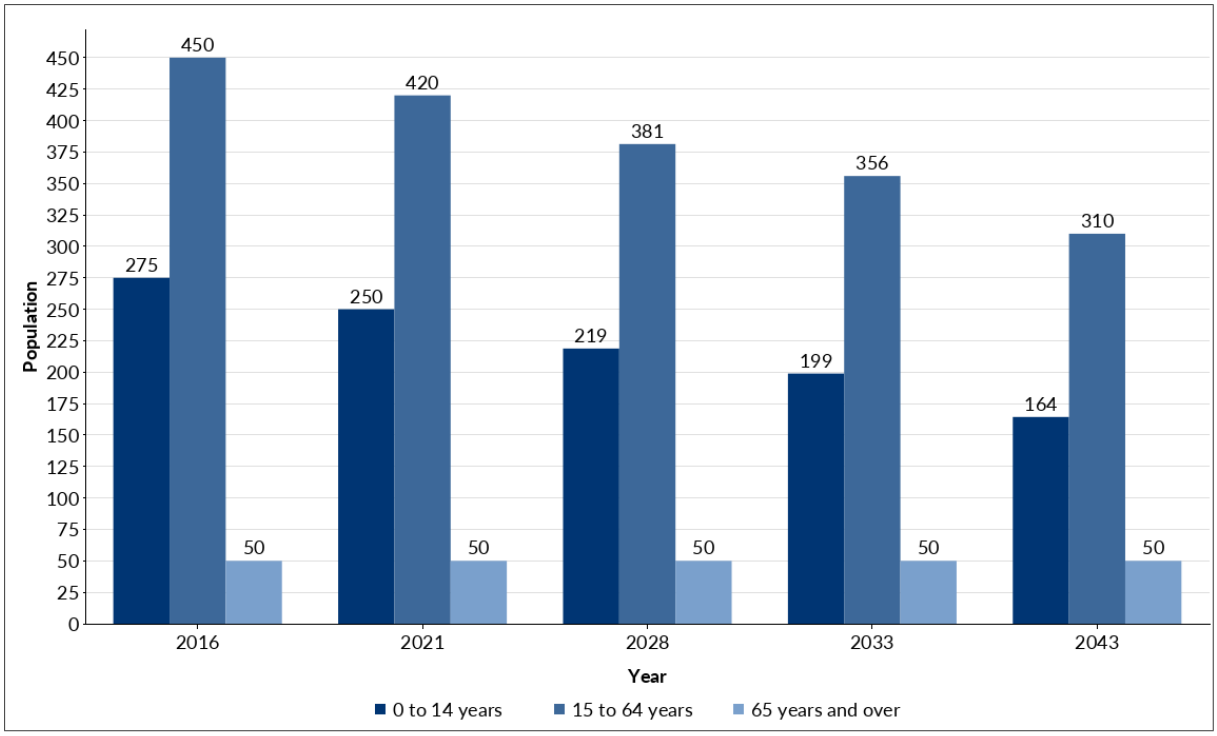
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-3 and **Table 5-2** display forecasted population for Webequie over the projection period by age group. The age groups are 0 – 14 years, 15 – 64 years, and 65 years and over. The 15 – 64 years age group represents the potential labour force. The 0 – 14 years and 15 – 64 years age groups are both declining over the projecting period while 65 years and over remain consistent. Population trends by age group are summarized as follows:

- Between 2016 and 2043, the 0 – 14 years age group is forecast to decrease from 275 to 164, a 40.4% decrease;
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 15 – 64 years age group is forecast to decrease from 450 to 310, a 31.1% decrease; and
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 65 years and over age group is forecast to remain consistent at 50 people.

Figure 5-3: Observed and Projected Population by Age Group, Webequie (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-2: Observed and Projected Population by Age Group, Webequie (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Total		0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and over	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	775	100%	275	35.5%	450	58.1%	50	6.5%
2021	720	100%	250	34.7%	420	58.3%	50	6.9%
2028	650	100%	219	33.7%	381	58.7%	50	7.7%
2033	605	100%	199	32.9%	356	58.9%	50	8.3%
2043	524	100%	164	31.3%	310	59.1%	50	9.5%

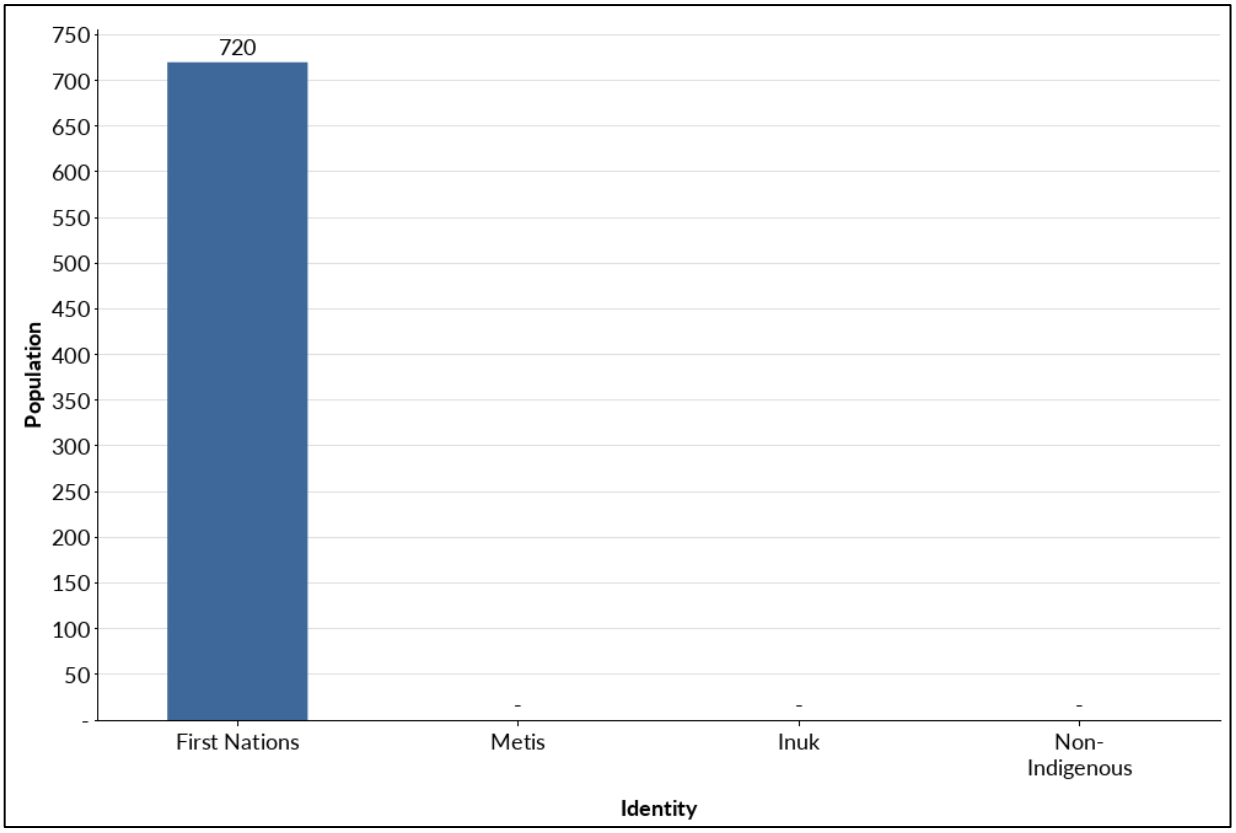
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.1.1.1.2 Indigenous Identity

Figure 5-4 and **Table 5-3** present the population for Webequie categorized by Indigenous identity[3] in 2021. In 2021, 100% of community members within the Webequie census sub-division identified solely as First Nations.

Figure 5-4: Population Estimate by Self-Identified Indigenous Population, Webequie (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-3: Self-Identified Indigenous Population, Webequie (2021)

Indigenous Identity	Count	Distribution
First Nations	720	100%
Métis	-	0%
Inuk	-	0%
Non-Indigenous	-	0%
Total	**720**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

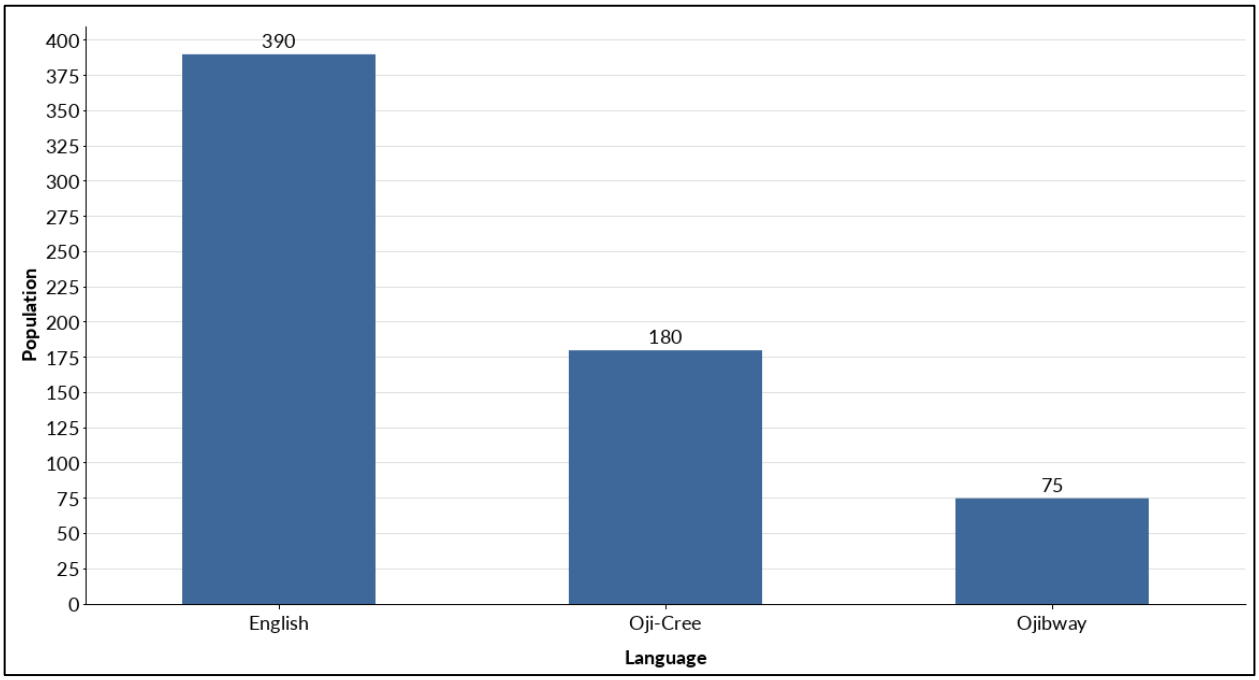
[3] Indigenous identity (or Aboriginal identify) is defined by the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35(1) as including Indian, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

5.1.1.1.3 Languages

Figure 5-5 and **Table 5-4** present the languages spoken most often in the home within Webequie in 2021. Languages used by Webequie First Nation in 2021 are summarized as follows:

- The majority of households in Webequie speak English while at home at approximately 60%.
- Oji-Cree is the second most spoken within the home at 28%.
- Ojibway is the least spoken language at home at 12%.

Figure 5-5: Language Used Most Often at Home, Webequie (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-4: Languages Used Most Often at Home, Webequie (2021)

Language	Count	Distribution
English	390	60%
Oji-Cree	180	28%
Ojibway	75	12%
Total	**645**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.1.1.1.4 Mobility and Migration

Figure 5-6 and **Table 5-5** present the mobility status of Webequie residents as of 2020. Mobility status refers to the status of a person regarding their place of residence on Census Day in relation to their place of residence on the same date 1 or 5 years earlier (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Residents are categorized as “non-movers” or “movers”. Persons who, on Census Day, lived in the same residence as they did on the same date 1 year or 5 years earlier are referred to as non-movers, and persons who, on Census Day, did not live in the same residence as they did 1 year, or 5 years earlier are referred to as movers. Movers include non-migrants, migrants, internal migrants, and external migrants. Mobility status of Webequie residents in 2020 is summarized as follows:

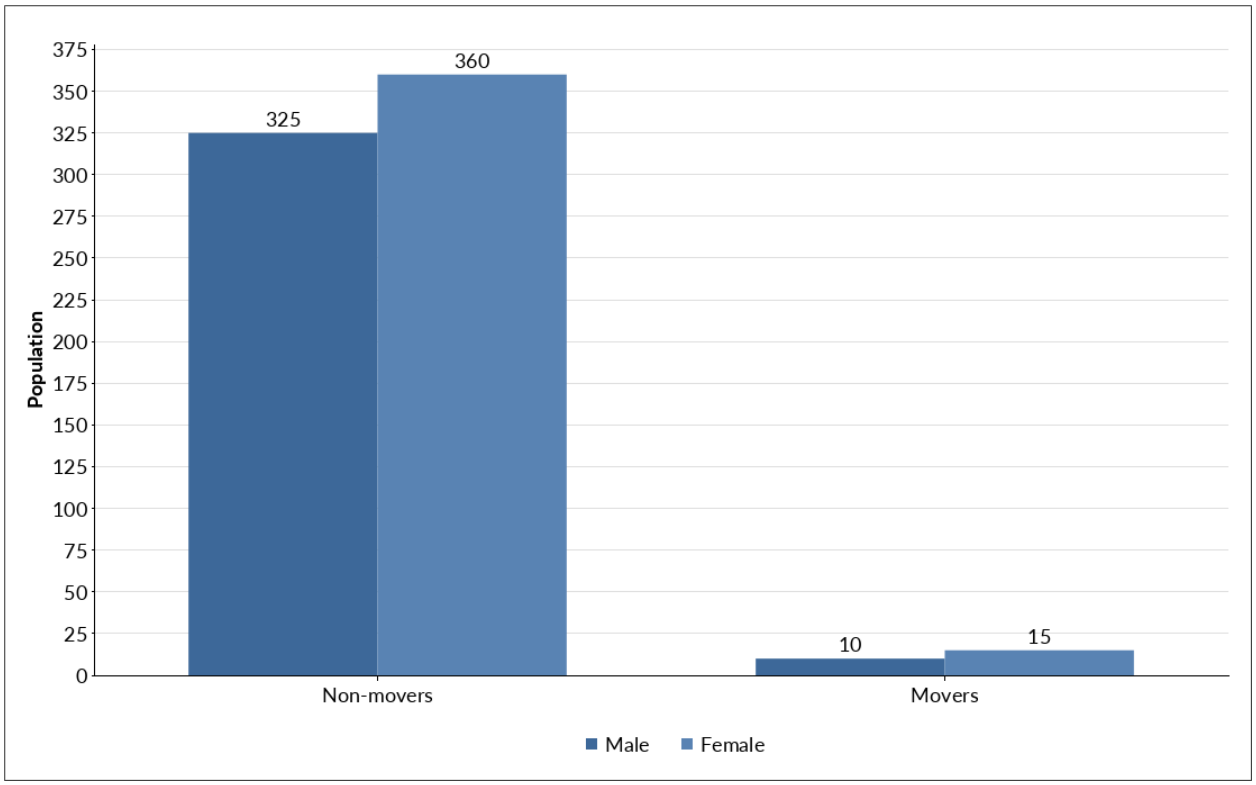
- 95.8% of residents were in the “non-movers” category.
- 4.2% of residents were in the “movers” category.
- 97% of males were in the “non-movers” category.
- 96% of females were in the “non-movers” category.

This information is important for several reasons:

- Low-Geographic Mobility: The high percentage of "non-movers" (95.8%) suggests that Webequie is a very stable community with a majority of its residents living in the same residence as they did one year earlier. This information can help in understanding the potential social impact of the proposed WSR Project. A community with high stability could be more sensitive to changes in their environment, and disruptions may have significant impacts on the social fabric.
- Workforce considerations: The mobility data might provide useful insights about the potential local workforce. This could influence decisions around employment opportunities that the Project might need to provide to gain community support.
- Gender aspects: The similar mobility percentages for males and females show that both genders have a high level of stability in the community. This is important to consider when planning employment opportunities since both men and women would likely be similarly affected.

This mobility data provides a more nuanced understanding of the community's social dynamics and can guide the Project in a way that minimizes negative effects and fosters beneficial outcomes for the community.

Figure 5-6: Mobility Status of Webequie Residents in 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-5: Mobility Status of Webequie First Nation Residents (2020)

Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Non-movers	685	95.8%	325	97.0%	360	96.0%
Movers	30	4.2%	10	3.0%	15	4.0%
Total	**715**	**100%**	**335**	**100%**	**375**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.1.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

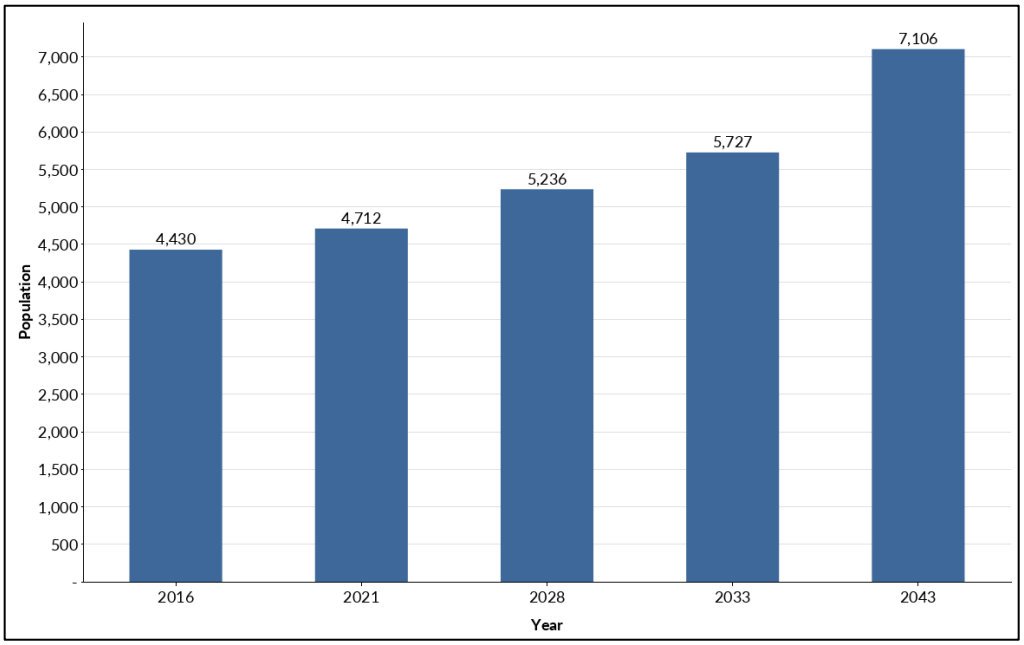
5.1.1.2.1 Population Overview

The population distribution across the other LSA communities varies significantly, with a few larger communities and several smaller ones. Attawapiskat First Nation has the largest population, accounting for nearly 30% of the total LSA population. Kasabonika and Eabametoong First Nations follow with 20% and 18%, respectively. Webequie First Nation represents 13% of the population, while Nibinamik First Nation has about half that, at 7%. The smallest communities—Weenusk, Neskantaga, and Marten Falls First Nations—each comprise around 4–5% of the LSA population and have similar population sizes.

Figure 5-7 and **Table 5-6** present the total forecasted population over the projection period 2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, and 2043, for the following other Indigenous communities and groups within the LSA:

- Marten Falls First Nation;
- Nibinamik First Nation;
- Neskantaga First Nation;
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation;
- Eabametoong First Nation;
- Attawapiskat First Nation; and
- Weenusk First Nation.

Figure 5-7: Historical and Projected Population for Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-6: Historical and Projected Population for Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	First Nation	Count	Distribution
2016	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,501	33.9%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	1,014	22.9%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	849	19.2%
	Marten Falls First Nation	252	5.7%
	Neskantaga First Nation	237	5.3%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	382	8.6%

Year	First Nation	Count	Distribution
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	195	4.4%
	Total	**4,430**	**100%**
2021	Marten Falls First Nation	243	5.2%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	355	7.5%
	Neskantaga First Nation	244	5.2%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,060	22.5%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	977	20.7%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,586	33.7%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	247	5.2%
	Total	**4,712**	**100%**
2028	Marten Falls First Nation	231	4.4%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	320	6.1%
	Neskantaga First Nation	254	4.9%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,446	27.6%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	927	17.7%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,713	32.7%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	344	6.6%
	Total	**5,236**	**100%**
2033	Marten Falls First Nation	223	3.9%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	298	5.2%
	Neskantaga First Nation	262	4.6%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,806	31.5%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	894	15.6%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,810	31.6%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	436	7.6%
	Total	**5,727**	**100%**
2043	Marten Falls First Nation	207	2.9%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	257	3.6%
	Neskantaga First Nation	277	3.9%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	2,815	39.6%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	830	11.7%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	2,021	28.4%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	699	9.8%
	Total	**7,106**	**100%**

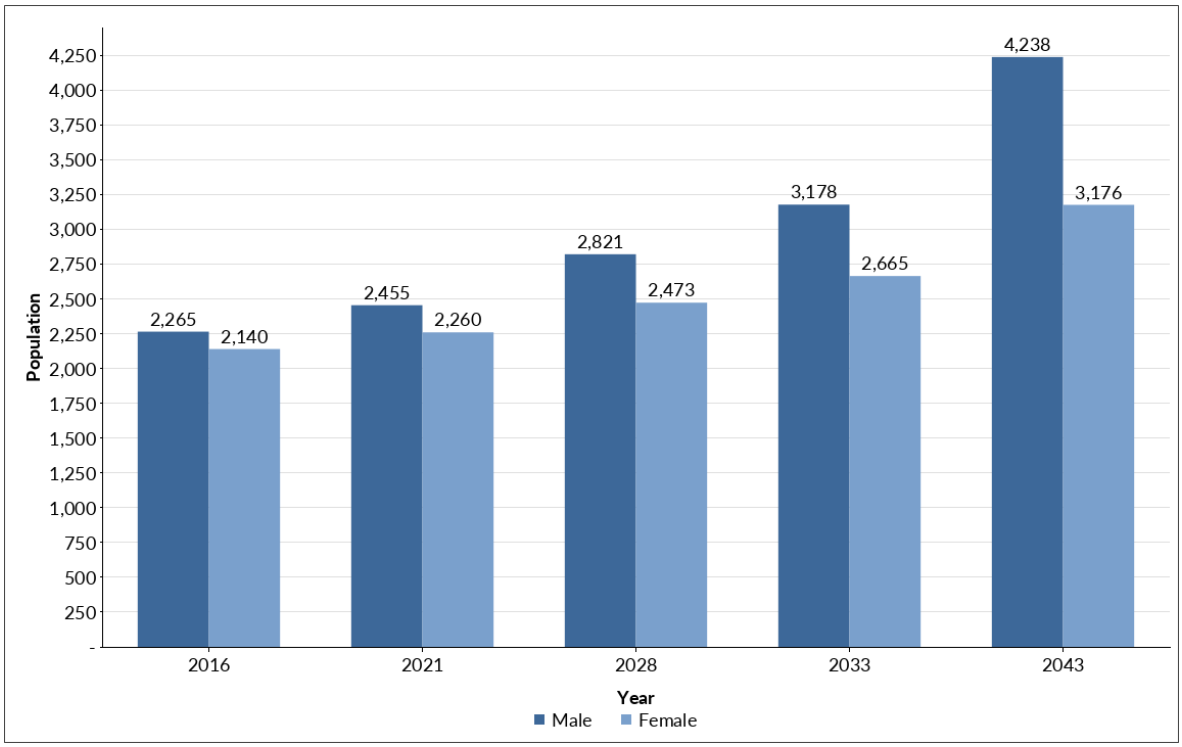
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-8 and **Table 5-7** present the forecasted population of the other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA over the projection period broken down by self-identified gender. Population trends by self-identified gender for the other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA are summarized as follows:

- Over the projection period both the male and female populations are forecast to increase;
- Between 2016 and 2043 the male population is forecast to increase from 2,265 to 4,238, an 87.1% increase;
- Between 2016 and 2043 the female population is forecast to increase from 2,140 to 3,176, a 48.4% increase;
- The gap of the male and female population distribution is growing over the projection period; and

Figure 5-8: Population Estimates and Projections by Gender for Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-7: Population Estimates and Projections by Gender for Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Community	Total	Male	Female
2016	Marten Falls First Nation	255	140	110
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	380	180	200
	Neskantaga First Nation	235	120	115
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	850	415	430
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	1,015	520	490
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,505	785	710

Year	Community	Total	Male	Female
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	195	105	85
	Total	4,435	2,265	2,140
2021	Marten Falls First Nation	240	130	115
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	355	170	185
	Neskantaga First Nation	240	125	120
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,060	535	520
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	975	500	480
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,585	850	735
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	245	145	105
	Total	4,700	2,455	2,260
2028	Marten Falls First Nation	231	117	122
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	320	157	166
	Neskantaga First Nation	254	132	127
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,446	763	679
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	927	473	466
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,713	950	771
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	344	228	141
	Total	5,236	2,821	2,473
2033	Marten Falls First Nation	223	109	128
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	298	148	153
	Neskantaga First Nation	262	138	133
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,806	984	821
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	894	455	457
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,810	1,029	799
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	436	315	174
	Total	5,727	3,178	2,665
2043	Marten Falls First Nation	207	94	140
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	257	132	131
	Neskantaga First Nation	277	150	145
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	2,815	1,636	1,200
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	830	421	438
	Attawapiskat First Nation	2,021	1,206	856
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	699	600	266
	Total	7,106	4,238	3,176

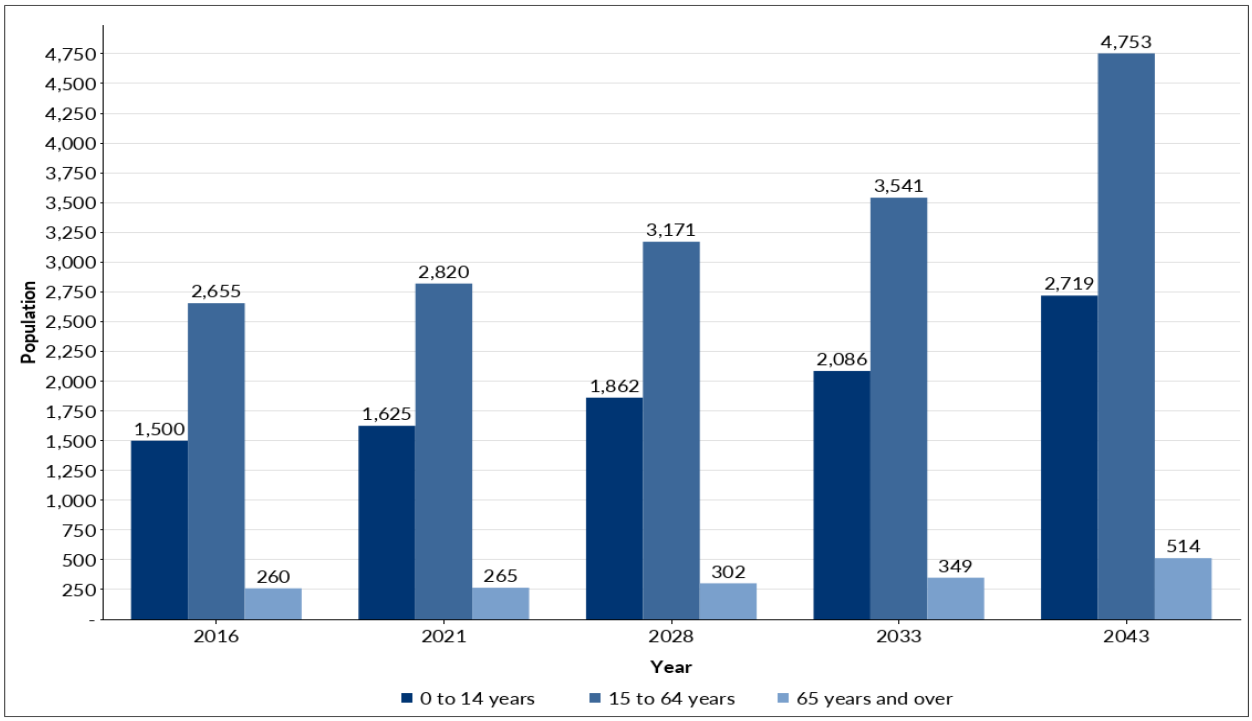
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-9 and **Table 5-8** presents forecasted population growth to 2043 of the other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA broken down by age group. The age groups represented are 0 -14 years, 15 – 64 years, and 65 years and over. The 15 – 64 years age group represents the potential labour force. Population trends by age group for the other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA are summarized as follows:

- All age groups are forecast to grow over the projection period.
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 0 – 14 years age group is projected to increase from 1,500 to 2,719, an 81.3% growth.
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 15 – 64 years age group is estimated to increase from 2,655 to 4,753, a 79% growth.
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 65 years and over age group increases from 260 to 514, a 97.7% growth.
- Between 2016 and 2043, the distribution of age groups is forecast to remain stable.

Figure 5-9: Population Forecast by Age Group for Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-8: Population Forecast by Age Group for Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Community	Total		0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and over	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	Marten Falls First Nation	255	100%	90	35%	150	59%	15	6%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	375	100%	130	35%	225	60%	20	5%
	Neskantaga First Nation	240	100%	75	31%	140	58%	25	10%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	845	100%	290	34%	505	60%	50	6%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	1,005	100%	385	38%	585	58%	35	3%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,500	100%	480	32%	935	62%	85	6%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	195	100%	50	26%	115	59%	30	15%
	Total	**4,415**	**100%**	**1,500**	**34%**	**2,655**	**60%**	**260**	**6%**
2021	Marten Falls First Nation	240	100%	85	35%	135	56%	20	8%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	355	100%	120	34%	215	61%	20	6%
	Neskantaga First Nation	240	100%	85	35%	145	60%	10	4%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,060	100%	370	35%	645	61%	45	4%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	980	100%	370	38%	560	57%	50	5%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,585	100%	550	35%	950	60%	85	5%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	250	100%	45	18%	170	68%	35	14%
	Total	**4,710**	**100%**	**1,625**	**35%**	**2,820**	**60%**	**265**	**6%**

Year	Community	Total		0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and over	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2028	Marten Falls First Nation	225	100%	78	35%	116	52%	30	13%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	329	100%	107	33%	202	61%	20	6%
	Neskantaga First Nation	256	100%	101	40%	152	59%	3	1%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,468	100%	520	35%	909	62%	39	3%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	959	100%	350	36%	527	55%	82	9%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,722	100%	665	39%	971	56%	85	5%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	376	100%	39	10%	294	78%	43	12%
	Total	**5,335**	**100%**	**1,862**	**35%**	**3,171**	**59%**	**302**	**6%**
2033	Marten Falls First Nation	219	100%	74	34%	105	48%	40	18%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	312	100%	99	32%	193	62%	20	6%
	Neskantaga First Nation	274	100%	115	42%	158	58%	1	0%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,859	100%	664	36%	1,160	62%	35	2%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	958	100%	336	35%	504	53%	118	12%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,835	100%	763	42%	987	54%	85	5%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	520	100%	35	7%	434	84%	51	10%
	Total	**5,976**	**100%**	**2,086**	**35%**	**3,541**	**59%**	**349**	**6%**

Year	Community	Total		0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and over	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2043	Marten Falls First Nation	222	100%	66	30%	85	38%	71	32%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	280	100%	84	30%	176	63%	20	7%
	Neskantaga First Nation	317	100%	147	47%	169	53%	0	0%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	3,002	100%	1,081	36%	1,893	63%	28	1%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	1,013	100%	311	31%	462	46%	240	24%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	2,105	100%	1,001	48%	1,019	48%	85	4%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	1,046	100%	28	3%	949	91%	69	7%
	Total	**7,986**	**100%**	**2,719**	**34%**	**4,753**	**60%**	**514**	**6%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

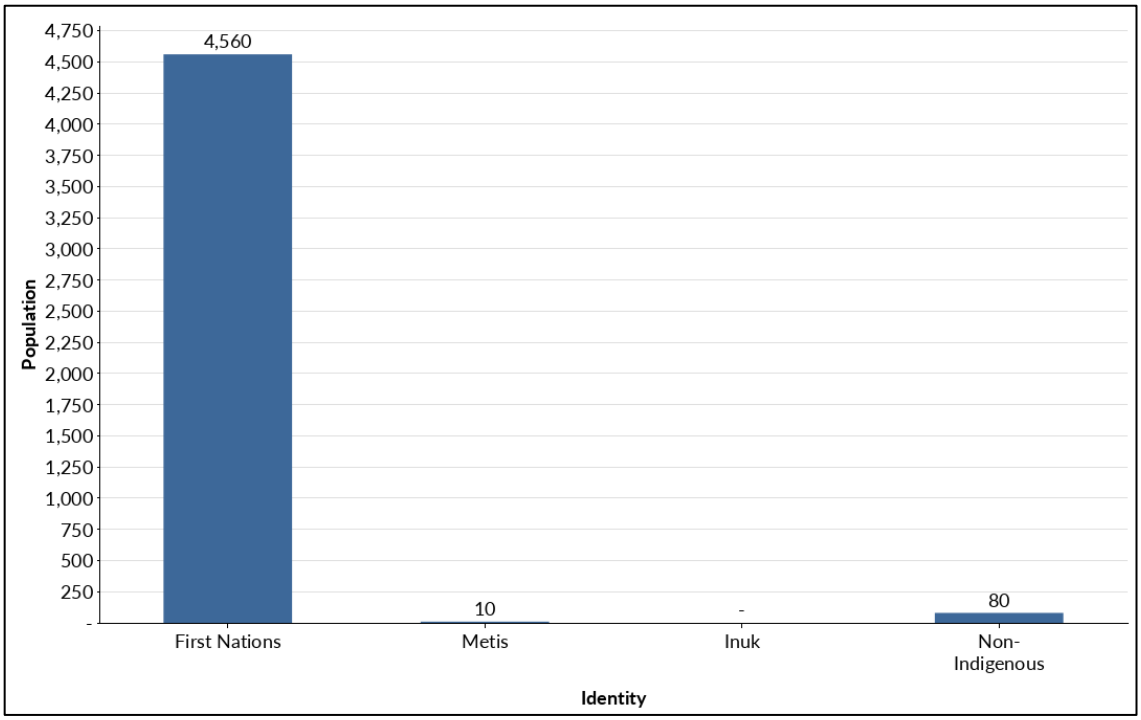
Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.1.1.2.2 Indigenous Identity

Figure 5-10 and **Table 5-9** present the population for the other Indigenous communities categorized by Indigenous identity for 2021. Indigenous identity of the population for the other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA are summarized as follows:

- 98.1% of the other Indigenous communities and groups in LSA identify as First Nations; and
- The remaining population identifies as Métis (0.2%) and non-Indigenous (1.7%).

Figure 5-10: Indigenous Identity for Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-9: Indigenous Identity for Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Indigenous Identity	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	First Nations	1,510	98.1%
	Métis	0	0%
	Inuk	0	0%
	Non-Indigenous	30	1.9%
	Total	**1,540**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	First Nations	970	99%
	Métis	0	0%
	Inuk	0	0%
	Non-Indigenous	10	1%
	Total	**980**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	First Nations	1,030	98.6%
	Métis	0	0%
	Inuk	0	0%
	Non-Indigenous	15	1.4%
	Total	**1,045**	**100%**

Community	Indigenous Identity	Count	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	First Nations	235	100%
	Métis	0	0%
	Inuk	0	0%
	Non-Indigenous	0	0%
	Total	**235**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	First Nations	240	100%
	Métis	0	0%
	Inuk	0	0%
	Non-Indigenous	0	0%
	Total	**240**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	First Nations	355	100%
	Métis	0	0%
	Inuk	0	0%
	Non-Indigenous	0	0%
	Total	**355**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	First Nations	220	86.3%
	Métis	10	3.9%
	Inuk	0	0%
	Non-Indigenous	25	9.8%
	Total	**255**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

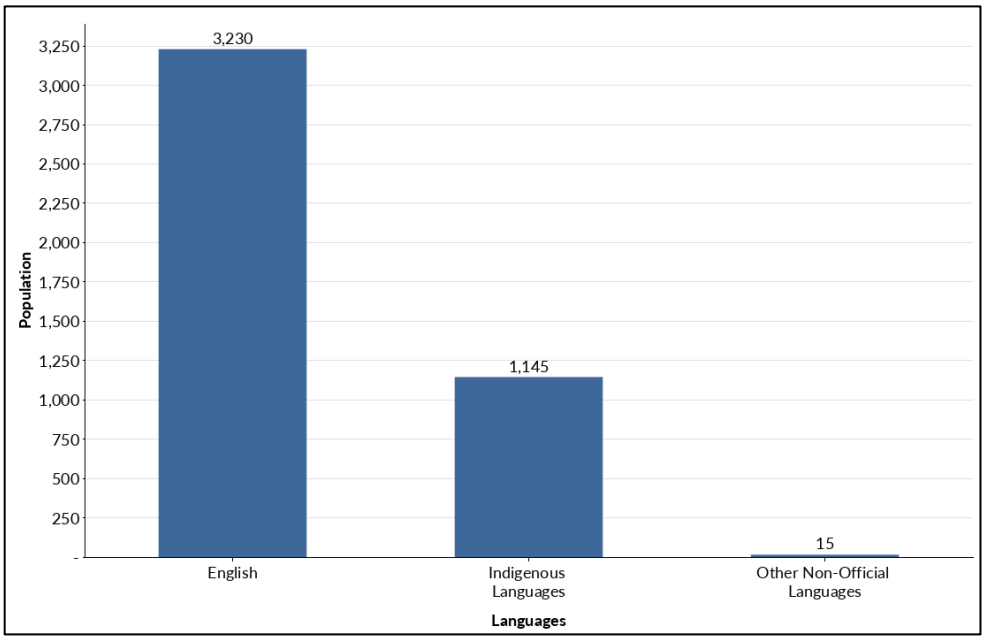
Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.1.1.2.3 Languages

Figure 5-11 and **Table 5-10** present the languages spoken most often in homes within the other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA in 2021. Languages used by the other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA in 2021 are summarized as follows (Statistics Canada, 2022a):

- The majority of households in the other Indigenous communities and groups within the LSA speak English while at home at approximately 74%;
- Indigenous languages are the second most spoken within the home at 26%, this category includes 39 Indigenous languages; and
- French makes up the remaining 0.3% of households.

Figure 5-11: Languages Used Most Often at Home by Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-10: Languages Used Most Often at Home by Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Language	Speakers	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	English	225	95.7%
	Other Non-Official Languages	0	0%
	Indigenous Languages	10	0%
	Total	**235**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	English	225	66.2%
	Other Non-Official Languages	0	0%
	Indigenous Languages	115	33.8%
	Total	**340**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	English	145	61.7%
	Other Non-Official Languages	0	0%
	Indigenous Languages	90	38.3%
	Total	**235**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	English	475	49.2%
	Other Non-Official Languages	0	0%
	Indigenous Languages	490	50.8%
	Total	**965**	**100%**

Community	Language	Speakers	Distribution
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	English	890	93.2%
	Other Non-Official Languages	0	0%
	Indigenous Languages	65	6.8%
	Total	**955**	**100%**
Attawapiskat First Nation	English	1,090	75.4%
	Other Non-Official Languages	0	0%
	Indigenous Languages	355	24.6%
	Total	**1,445**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	English	180	83.7%
	Other Non-Official Languages	15	7%
	Indigenous Languages	20	9.3%
	Total	**215**	**100%**
Total	English	3,230	73.6%
	Other Non-Official Languages	15	0.3%
	Indigenous Languages	1,145	26.1%
	Total	**4,390**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

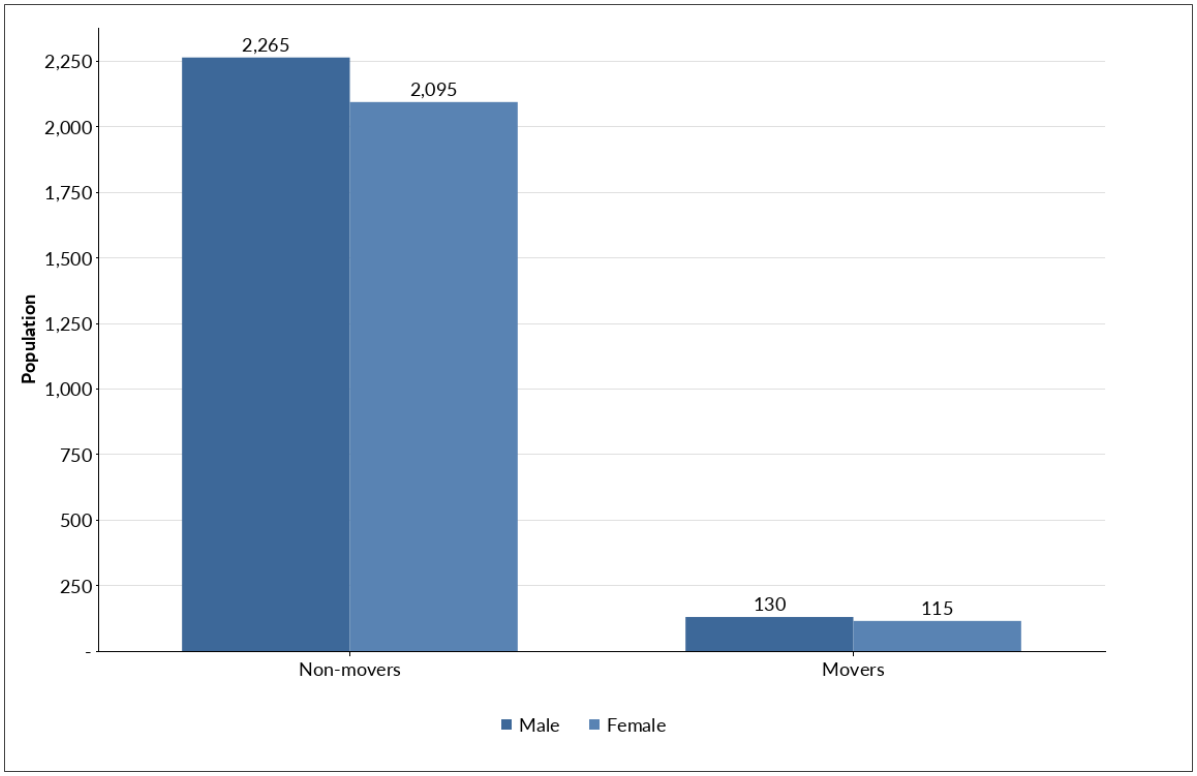
5.1.1.2.4 Mobility and Migration

Figure 5-12 and **Table 5-11** present the mobility status of residents of other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA in 2020. Mobility status refers to the status of a person regarding their place of residence on Census Day in relation to their place of residence on the same date 1 or 5 years earlier (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Residents are categorized as “non-movers” or “movers”. Persons who, on Census Day, lived in the same residence as they did on the same date 1 year or 5 years earlier are referred to as non-movers, and persons who, on Census Day, did not live in the same residence as they did 1 year, or 5 years earlier are referred to as movers. Movers include non-migrants, migrants, internal migrants, and external migrants. Mobility status of residents of other Indigenous communities and groups in the LSA in 2020 is summarized as follows:

- 95% of LSA residents were in the “non-movers” category, with a relatively equal distribution between the male and female population.
- 5% of LSA residents were in the “movers” category, with males present in this category.

Figure 5-12: Mobility Status by Gender of Residents of Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-11: Mobility Status by Gender of Residents in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2020)

Community	Mobility Status	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	Non-movers	220	92%	110	92%	105	100%
	Movers	20	8%	10	8%	-	0%
	Total	**240**	**100%**	**120**	**100%**	**105**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Non-movers	295	87%	140	88%	145	85%
	Movers	45	13%	20	13%	25	15%
	Total	**340**	**100%**	**160**	**100%**	**170**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	Non-movers	230	94%	120	92%	105	91%
	Movers	15	6%	10	8%	10	9%
	Total	**245**	**100%**	**130**	**100%**	**115**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Non-movers	1,015	98%	510	97%	505	98%
	Movers	25	2%	15	3%	10	2%
	Total	**1,040**	**100%**	**525**	**100%**	**515**	**100%**

Community	Mobility Status	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Non-movers	885	92%	445	92%	435	93%
	Movers	75	8%	40	8%	35	7%
	Total	**960**	**100%**	**485**	**100%**	**470**	**100%**
Attawapiskat First Nation	Non-movers	1,530	98%	820	98%	710	97%
	Movers	35	2%	15	2%	20	3%
	Total	**1,565**	**100%**	**835**	**100%**	**730**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	Non-movers	215	86%	120	86%	90	86%
	Movers	35	14%	20	14%	15	14%
	Total	**250**	**100%**	**140**	**100%**	**105**	**100%**
Total	Non-movers	**4,390**	**95%**	**2,265**	**95%**	**2,095**	**95%**
	Movers	**250**	**5%**	**130**	**5%**	**115**	**5%**
	Total	**4,640**	**100%**	**2,395**	**100%**	**2,210**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.1.1.3 GBA+ Considerations

Webequie First Nation's total registered member population is 987 people as of December 2023, with 145 registered members living off-reserve (CIRNAC, 2023b). It is noted that the registered population varies from the values presented in the Census of Population, which is recorded to be 723 people for the Webequie census subdivision[4] (Statistics Canada, 2022). In 2021, 100% of the Webequie census subdivision identified as First Nations[5] (Statistics Canada, 2022). Approximately 60% of households speak English while at home, while 28% speak Oji-Cree within their home, and 12% speak Ojibway within their home (Statistics Canada, 2022).

The population of Webequie First Nation is declining and has limited in-migration, with 95.8% of residents being "non-movers[6]" (Statistics Canada, 2022a). For the first time, the 2021 Census presented a question on self-identified gender, adding "at birth" when asking about one's sex, enabling individuals to report their gender, including cisgender[7],

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4 Censuses are snapshots of a population that self-identifies as Registered or Treaty Indians at a particular time, while the Indian Register is a continuous statutory administrative file based on the registration of individuals who meet specific criteria, as defined by the Indian Act. The census estimate is affected by the undercounting of Registered Indians living on incompletely enumerated reserves where enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before completion, by the under coverage of Registered Indians living on participating reserves and settlements, and by the under coverage of Registered Indians living off reserve. Furthermore, because the short-form questionnaires were used, the census did not collect data that identified Registered Indians living in institutions (hospitals, senior citizen homes, jails, shelters, etc.), or living outside the country (Statistics Canada, 2019a).

5 'First Nations' refers to both Status and Non-Status Indians (Government of Canada, 2021). Indian status is the legal standing of a person who is registered under the *Indian Act* (Government of Canada, 2023e).

6 Non-mover refers to persons who, on Census Day, lived in the same residence as they did on the same date 1 year or 5 years earlier (Statistics Canada, 2022).

7 Cisgender refers to persons whose reported gender corresponds to their reported sex at birth. It includes cisgender (cis) men and women (Statistics Canada, 2021c).

transgender[8], and non-binary[9] individuals (Statistics Canada, 2023). These changes to the Census reflect increasing recognition of gender and sexual diversity of LGBTQ2+ individuals (Statistics Canada, 2023). This data aids in the ability to perform GBA+ and to better recognize and address the needs of LGBTQ2+ individuals. Due to its small population, however, data on LGBTQ2+ members of Webequie First Nation are limited.

As of 2021, the population distribution by self-identified gender[10] shows that Webequie First Nation has a larger population of women[11] (52.6% or 380) than men[12] (47% or 340), however, this difference appears to be decreasing based on population forecasts from 2016 to 2043 (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The population distribution of Webequie First Nation by age can be broadly categorized by 0-14, 15-64, and 65 years and over, where those aged 15-64 are considered the potential labour force. Further age group breakdowns by gender are displayed in **Figure 5-13**. Webequie First Nation has a young population, with approximately 35% being aged 0-14. Youth (those aged 15 to 24) (Statistics Canada 2023) account for nearly 16% of the population. Based on population forecasts, both the 0-14 and 15-64 age groups are declining from 2016 to 2043 by 40.4% and 31.1%, respectively. This may be due to out-migration of Webequie members needing to leave the community to pursue education, training, and employment opportunities that are not readily available in Webequie.

Of Webequie First Nation youth, 66.7% (80) are women and 37.5% (45) are men (Statistics Canada, 2022a). Seniors (aged 65 and over) make up a small proportion (6.9%) of Webequie First Nation (Statistics Canada, 2022a), however this may be due to the fact that elderly residents must move south to larger municipalities, such as Thunder Bay, as they age in order to access more intensive health services that are not available in their home community (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

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8 Transgender refers to persons whose reported gender does not correspond to their reported sex at birth. It includes transgender (trans) men and women. Non-binary persons are excluded (Statistics Canada, 2021a).

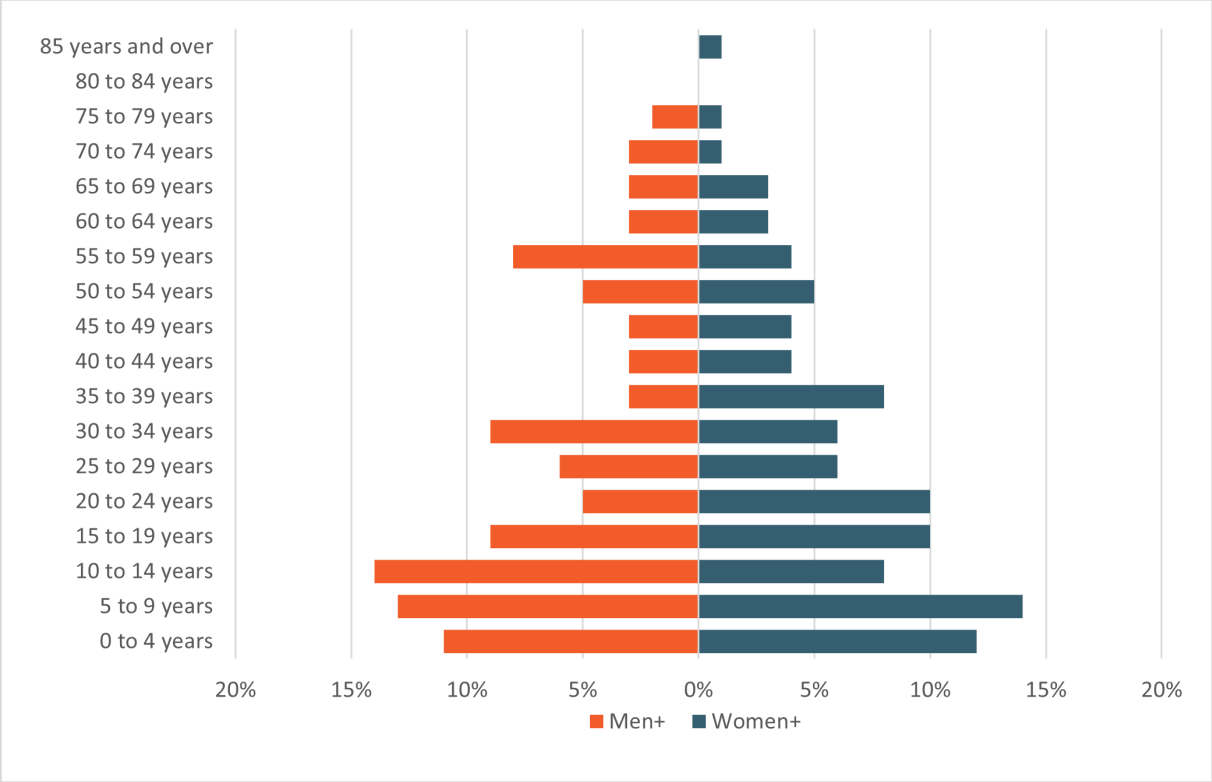
9 Non-binary refers to persons whose reported gender is not exclusively male or female. It includes persons whose reported gender is, for example, agender, pangender, genderqueer, genderfluid, or gender nonconforming. It also includes persons whose reported gender is Two-Spirit, a term specific to some Indigenous peoples of North America. It includes persons whose reported gender is both male and female, neither male nor female, or either male or female in addition to another gender. It may also include those who reported or were reported by proxy as questioning or in the process of deciding (Statistics Canada, 2021a).

10 Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses provided. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol (Statistics Canada, 2022).

11 "Women+" includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons (Statistics Canada, 2022).

12 "Men+" includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons (Statistics Canada, 2022).

Figure 5-13: Population Age and Gender for Webequie First Nation, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a

The WSR Project has the potential to increase the population of Webequie First Nation through both increased in-migration of off-reserve Webequie First Nation members and decreased out-migration of on-reserve community members associated with direct, indirect[13], and induced[14] employment opportunities of the Project. Employment opportunities with the Project may also temporarily shift the local demographics, as these are likely to attract certain sub-groups.

Project requirements are expected to result in a small influx of Webequie First Nation members currently living off-reserve, who may return to the community to seek employment with the Project. Among Webequie survey respondents living off-reserve at the time of the survey, 80% indicated they would want to live in Webequie year-round due to the WSR and/or anticipated mining development in the area (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). A reduction in out-migration may also occur as local employment opportunities increase. The construction phase has the potential to attract particular sub-populations for employment with the Project, such as those more typically engaged in construction work (i.e., young adults, males, and abled persons). There are potential barriers for existing Webequie members for employment, as the local skillset does not readily match general Project requirements due to lack of education, training, and similar employment opportunities in the community (see **Section 5.5** and **Section 6.1**). The in-migration of certain

[13] Indirect employment related to the WSR Project could include various activities spurred by the presence of the Project such as positions in supporting information technology, health and safety, manufacturing, etc.

[14] Induced employment related to the WSR Project could include jobs created from direct and indirect Project employment as a result of spending earnings in the broader economy, such as positions in retail and hospitality, etc.

sub-populations to Webequie First Nation for these employment opportunities has the potential to shift the demographics and service needs in the community (see **Section 5.3** for potential changes to community services).

5.1.2 Regional Study Area

The RSA is comprised of three census divisions: Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District. Within these divisions there are 114 census sub-divisions which include 72 Indigenous communities. The districts encompass the 22 RSA Indigenous communities with the majority located within the Kenora District.

The Kenora District has a substantial population projected to have slight growth over the projection period, increasing from 66,000 in 2021 to 68,095 by 2043. Nearly half of the Kenora District population identifies as either First Nation, Métis, or Inuk. English is spoken in nearly all homes and there is a small percentage of in-migration to the District.

The Thunder Bay District has the largest population of communities in the RSA and is projected to grow between 2021 to 2043, from 146,862 to 150,498. The Thunder Bay District population identifies primarily as non-Indigenous with just 16% of the population identifying as Indigenous. Most households in the Thunder Bay District speak English in their homes. The Thunder Bay District has the highest percentage of immigrant residents in the RSA at 8%.

The Cochrane District population is projected to decrease over the projection period from 77,963 in 2021 to 70,829 by 2043. The Cochrane District population identifies mainly as non-Indigenous with just 20% identifying with one of the Indigenous groups. Households in the Cochrane District are mainly English and French speaking with less than 1% using Indigenous languages within the household. The Cochrane District has lowest level of immigrant residents at 3%.

The population in the RSA is expected to slightly decrease over the years from 2016 to 2043. This gradual decline suggests a trend of depopulation in the region.

The age composition in the RSA is expected to evolve significantly towards an older demographic. There will be a decrease in the proportion of the population aged 0 to 14 years, while the segment of the population aged 65 and over is expected to significantly increase. This denotes a rapid aging trend in the population.

When considering languages spoken at home, English holds a dominant position, followed by French. This trend is expected to continue through the forecast period, highlighting the significant linguistic homogeneity in the RSA.

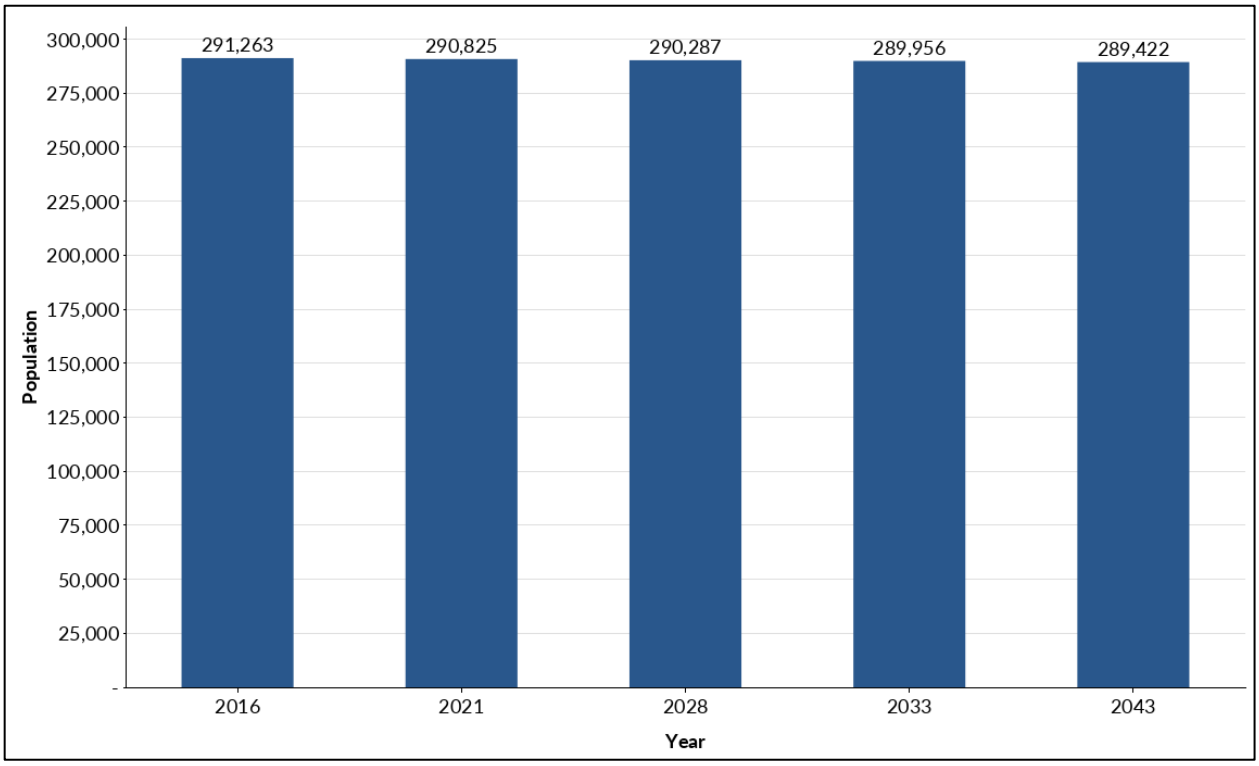
The RSA demonstrates strong population stability, with a consistently high percentage of residents identified as non-movers. Similarly, the population is overwhelmingly non-immigrant, reflecting a long-term resident majority and a low influx of immigrants.

As described in **Section 2.1**, the RSA for the Socio-Economic Baseline includes Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District. Population and demographics for Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District are described in **Sections 5.1.2.1**, **5.1.2.2**, and **5.1.2.3**, respectively.

Figure 5-14 and **Table 5-12** present the total forecasted population in the RSA over the projection period: 2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, and 2043. Population trends in the RSA are summarized as follows:

- The total population in the RSA is forecasted to decrease over the projection period; and
- Based off current growth trends, the population in the RSA is forecasted to decrease by 1,841 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 0.6%.

Figure 5-14: Regional Study Area: District Population Forecast (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-12: Regional Study Area Population Forecast (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

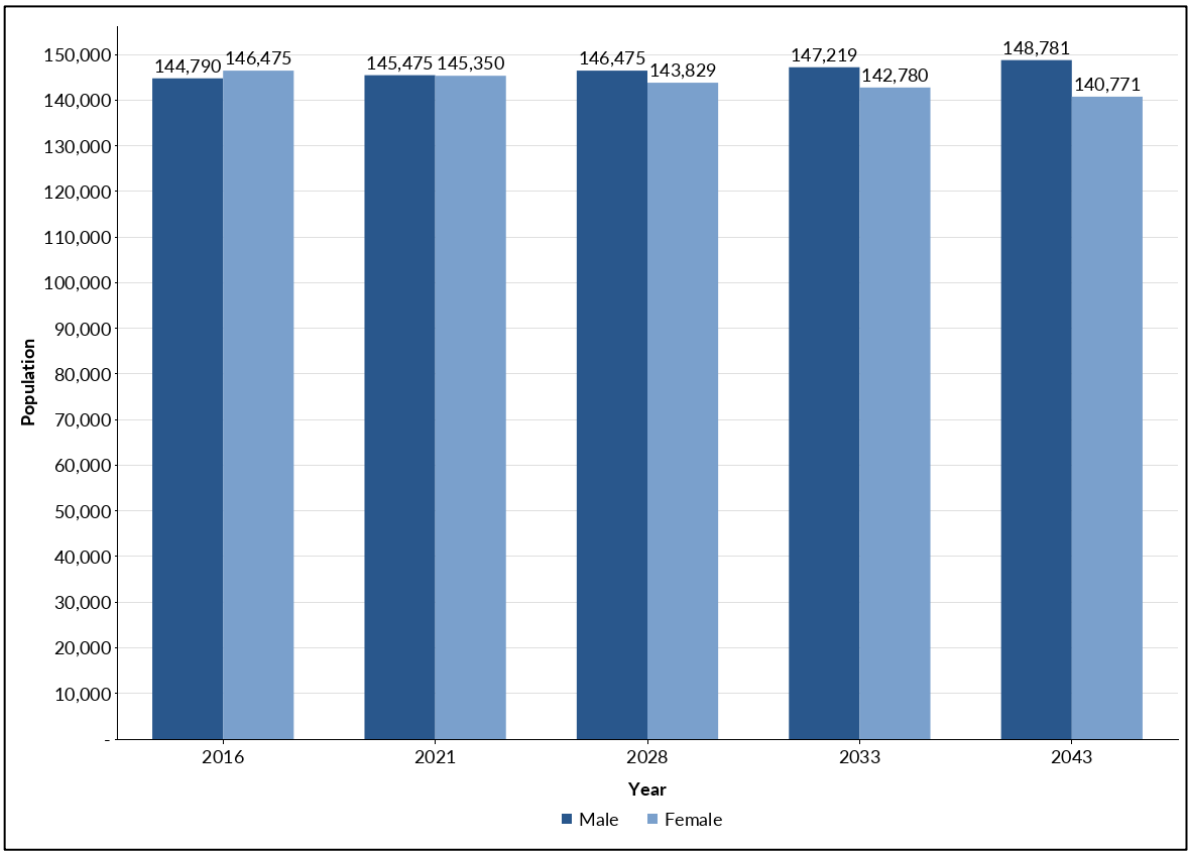
Year	Regional Study Area		Kenora		Thunder Bay		Cochrane	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	291,263	100%	65,533	22%	146,048	50%	79,682	27%
2021	290,825	100%	66,000	23%	146,862	50%	77,963	27%
2028	290,287	100%	66,659	23%	148,009	51%	75,619	26%
2033	289,956	100%	67,134	23%	148,834	51%	73,987	26%
2043	289,422	100%	68,095	24%	150,498	52%	70,829	24%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Figure 5-15 and **Table 5-13** present the forecasted population in the RSA over the projection period broken down by self-identified gender. Population trends by self-identified gender in the RSA are summarized as follows:

- Over the projection period female population is forecast to decrease while the male population is forecast to increase.
- Between 2016 and 2043 the male population is forecast to increase from 144,790 to 148,781, a 2.8% increase.
- Between 2016 and 2043 the female population is forecast to decrease from 146,475 to 140,771, a 3.9% decrease.
- The female population is declining at a disproportionate rate to the male population. The distribution of the female populations falls from 50.3% of the population to 45.7% by 2043 while the male population increases from 49.7% to 54.6%.

Figure 5-15: Regional Study Area Population Forecast by Self-Identified Gender (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-13: Regional Study Area Population Forecast by Self-Identified Gender (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	291,265	100%	144,790	49.7%	146,475	50.3%
2021	290,825	100%	145,475	50.0%	145,350	50.0%
2028	290,284	100%	146,475	50.5%	143,829	49.5%
2033	289,950	100%	147,219	50.8%	142,780	49.2%
2043	289,410	100%	148,781	51.4%	140,771	48.6%

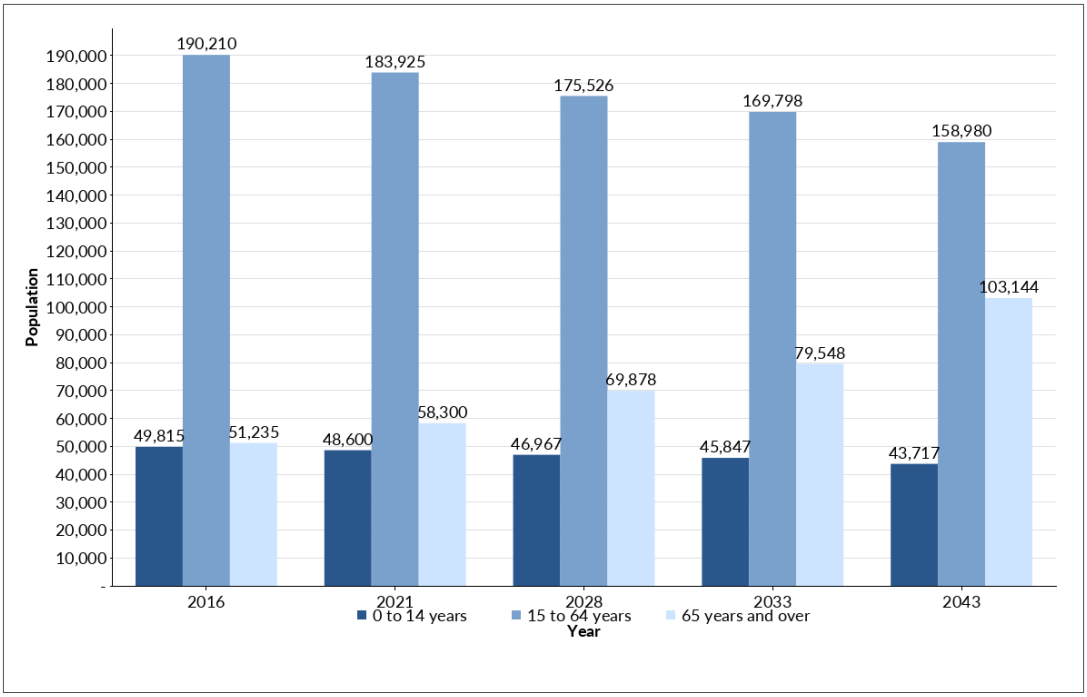
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022.

Figure 5-16 and **Table 5-14** present the forecasted population in the RSA over the projection period by age group. The age groups explored are 0 -14 years, 15 – 64 years, and 65 years and over. The 15 – 64 years age group represents the potential labour force. Population trends by age group in the LSA are summarized as follows:

- The 0 – 14 years and 15 – 64 years age groups are forecast to decrease over the projecting period while 65 years and over is forecast to increase;
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 0 – 14 years age group is forecast to decrease from 49,815 to 43,717, a 12.2% decrease;

- Between 2016 and 2043, the 15 – 64 years age group is forecast to decrease from 190,210 to 158,980, a 16.4% decrease; and
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 65 years and over age group is forecast to increase from 51,235 to 103,144, a significant increase in aging population.

Figure 5-16: Regional Study Area Population Forecast by Age Group (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-14: Regional Study Area Population Forecast by Age Group (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Count		0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and over	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	291,260	100%	49,815	17%	190,210	65%	51,235	18%
2021	290,825	100%	48,600	17%	183,925	63%	58,300	20%
2028	292,371	100%	46,967	16%	175,526	60%	69,878	24%
2033	295,193	100%	45,847	16%	169,798	58%	79,548	27%
2043	305,841	100%	43,717	14%	158,980	52%	103,144	34%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

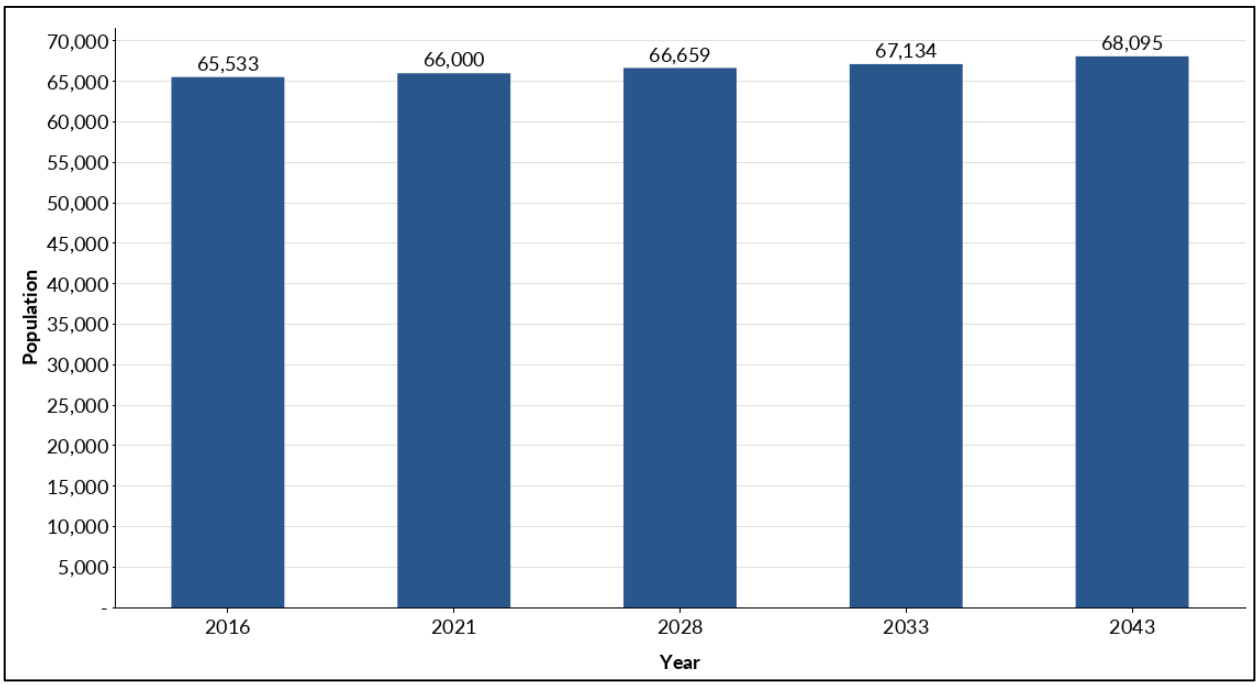
5.1.2.1 Kenora District

5.1.2.1.1 Population Overview

Figure 5-17 presents the total forecasted population for the Kenora District over the projection period: 2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, and 2043. Population trends in Kenora District are summarized as follows:

- The total population for Kenora is forecasted to increase over the projection period.
- Based off current growth trends, the population of Kenora is forecasted to grow by 2,562 between 2016 and 2043, a growth of approximately 4%.

Figure 5-17: Kenora District – Population Forecast (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

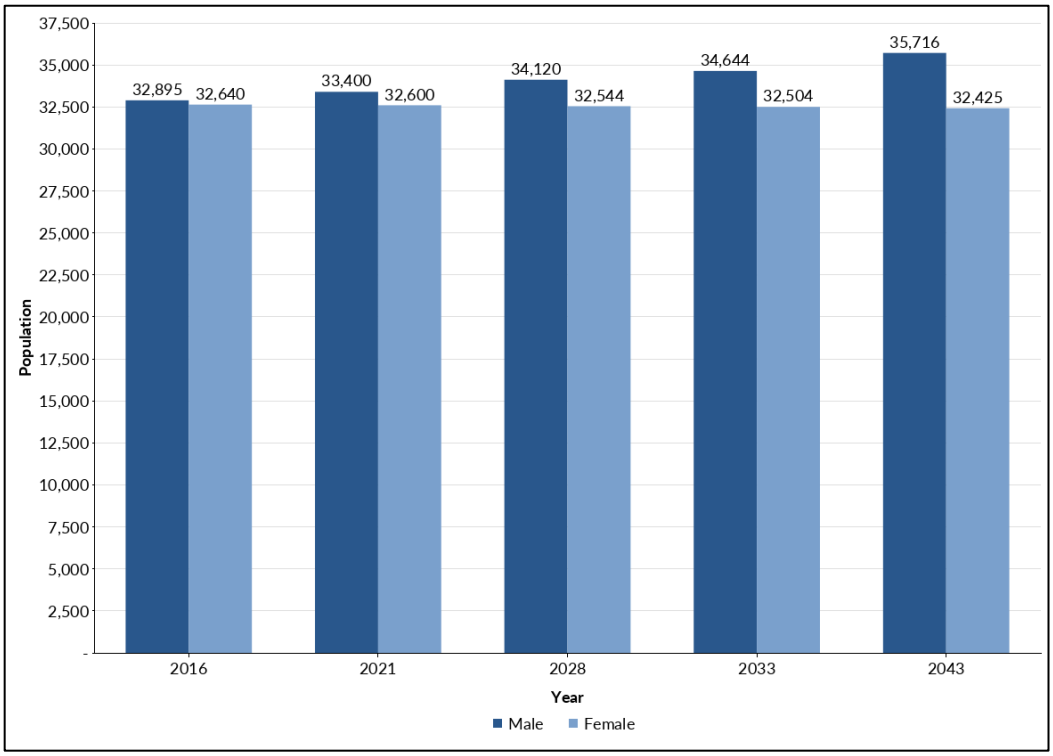


Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Figure 5-18 and **Table 5-15** present the forecasted population in the Kenora District over the projection period (2021 to 2043) broken down by self-identified gender. Population trends by self-identified gender in Kenora District are summarized as follows:

- Over the projection period both female and male population is forecast to increase
- Between 2016 and 2043 the male population is forecast to increase from 32,895 to 35,716, an 8.6% increase.
- Between 2016 and 2043 the female population is forecast to decrease from 32,640 to 32,425, a 0.7% decrease.
- Between 2016 and 2043, the distribution of the male population increases from 50.2% to 52.5% and the female population decreases from 49.8% to 47.6%.

Figure 5-18: Kenora District – Population Forecast by Self-Identified Gender (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-15: Kenora District – Population Forecast by Self-Identified Gender (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

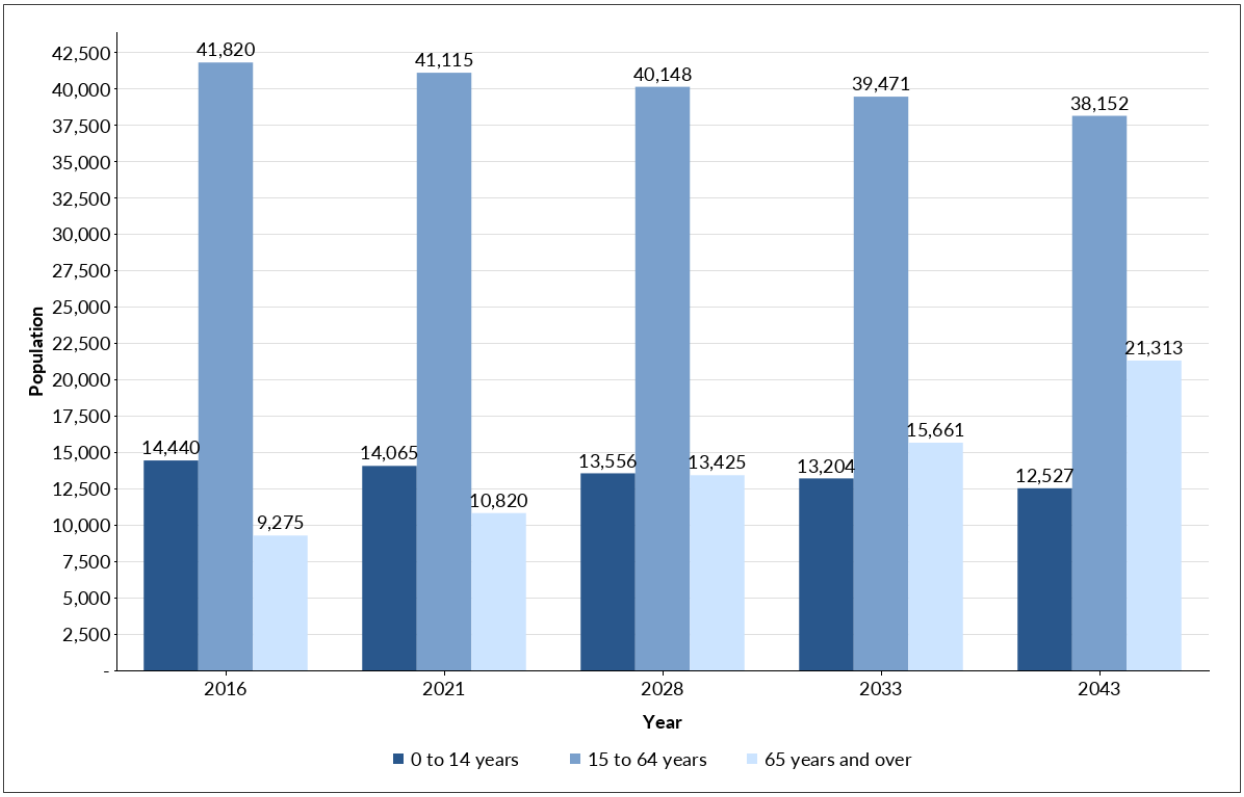
Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	65,535	100%	32,895	50.2%	32,640	49.8%
2021	66,000	100%	33,400	50.6%	32,600	49.4%
2028	66,657	100%	34,120	51.2%	32,544	48.8%
2033	67,130	100%	34,644	51.6%	32,504	48.4%
2043	68,086	100%	35,716	52.5%	32,425	47.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022.

Figure 5-19 and **Table 5-16** present the forecasted population in the Kenora District over the projection period by age group. The age groups explored are 0 -14 years, 15 – 64 years, and 65 years and over. The 15 – 64 years age group represents the potential labour force. Population trends by age group in Kenora District are summarized as follows:

- The 0 – 14 years and 15 – 64 years age groups are forecast to decrease over the projection period while 65 years and over is forecast to increase;
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 0 – 14 years age group is forecast to decrease from 14,440 to 12,527, a 13.2% decrease;
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 15 – 64 years age group is forecast to decrease from 41,820 to 38,152, an 8.8% decrease; and
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 65 years and over age group increases from 9,275 to 21,313, a 129.8% increase.

Figure 5-19: Kenora District – Population Forecast by Age Group (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-16: Kenora District – Population Forecast by Age Group (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Count		0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and over	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	65,535	100%	14,440	22%	41,820	64%	9,275	14%
2021	66,000	100%	14,065	21%	41,115	62%	10,820	16%
2028	67,129	100%	13,556	20%	40,148	60%	13,425	20%
2033	68,336	100%	13,204	19%	39,471	58%	15,661	23%
2043	71,992	100%	12,527	17%	38,152	53%	21,313	30%

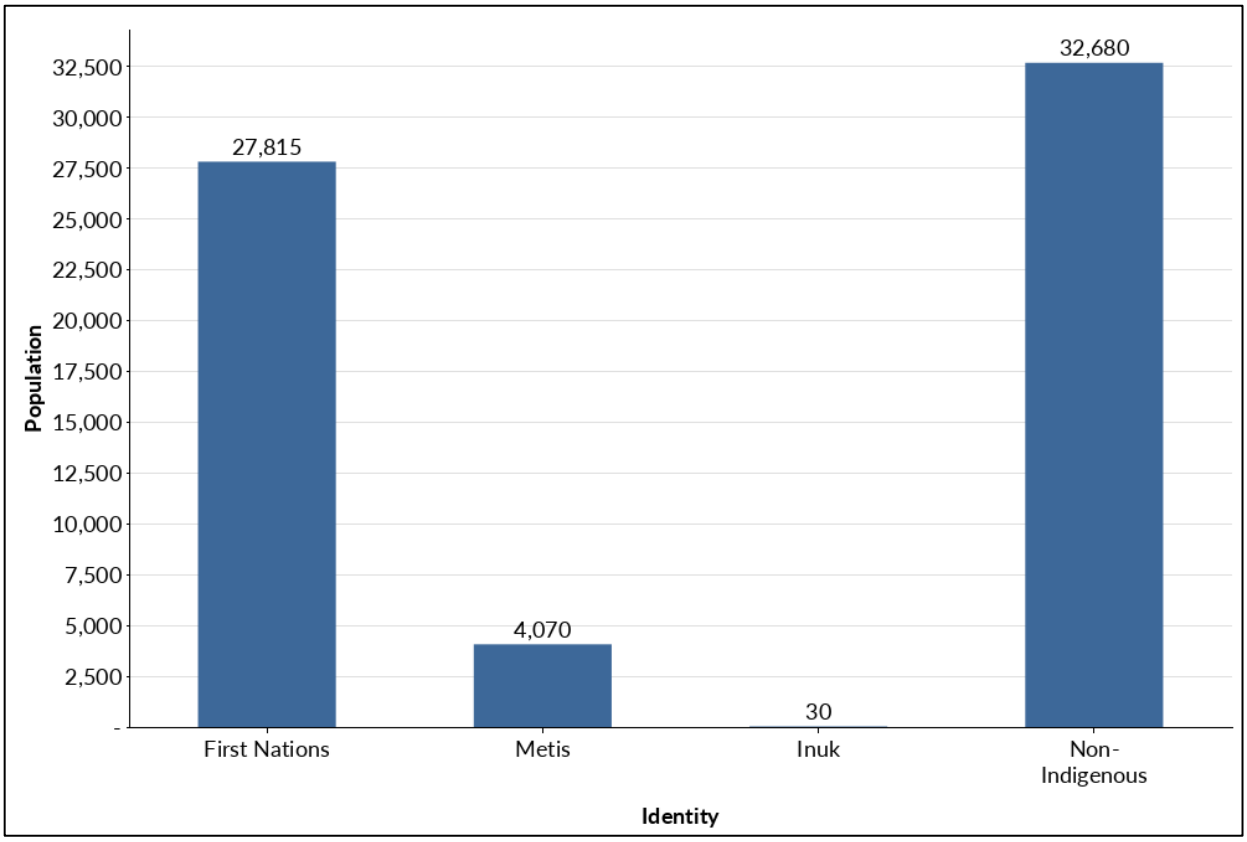
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

5.1.2.1.2 Indigenous Identity

Figure 5-20 and **Table 5-17** present the population for the Kenora District by Indigenous identity for 2021. Indigenous identity of the population in Kenora District are summarized as follows:

- 50.6% of the population identifies as non-Indigenous; and
- The majority of the population identifying as Indigenous identifies as First Nations at 43.1% of the population, followed by Métis (6.3%) and Inuk (0.1%).

Figure 5-20: Kenora District – Indigenous Identity of Population (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-17: Kenora District – Indigenous Identity of Population 2021

Indigenous Identity	Count	Distribution
First Nations	27,815	43.1%
Métis	4,070	6.3%
Inuk	30	0.1%
Non-Indigenous	32,680	50.6%
Total	**64,595**	**100%**

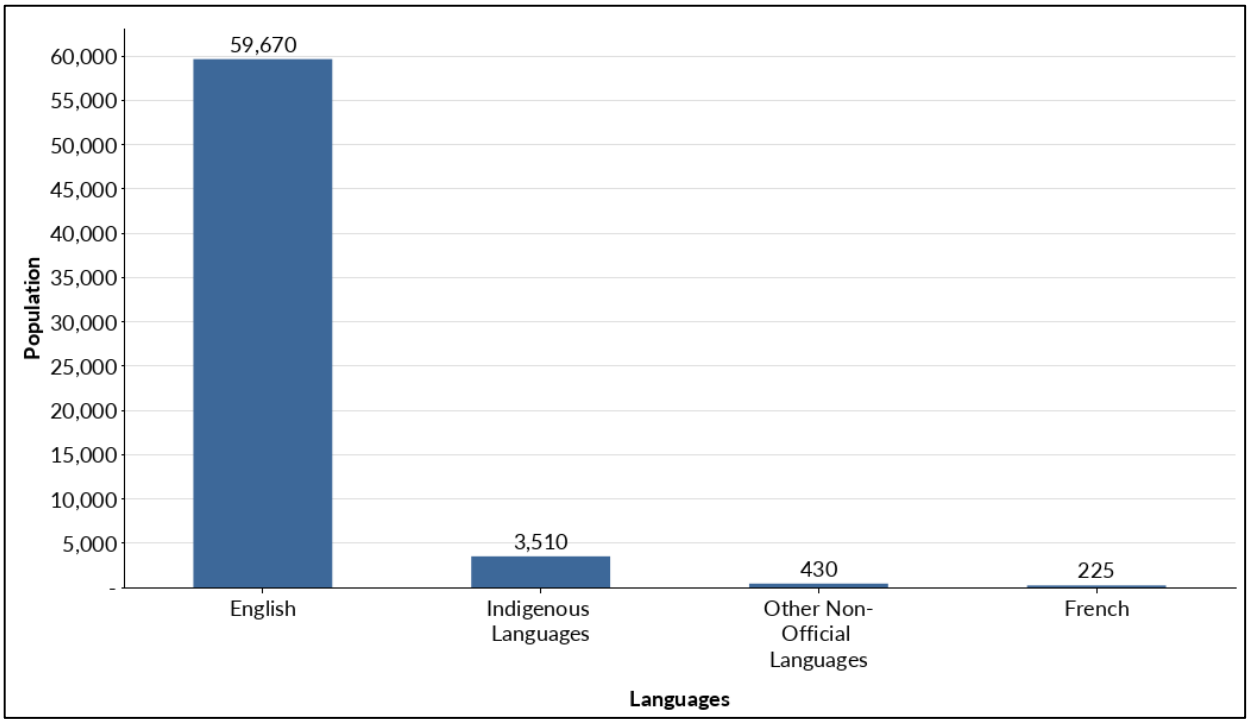
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.1.2.1.3 Languages

Figure 5-21 and **Table 5-18** present the languages spoken most often in the home within the Kenora District in 2021. Languages used by the population in Kenora District in 2021 are summarized as follows:

- The majority of homes in the Kenora District speak English while at home at approximately 94%;
- Indigenous languages are the second most spoken within the home at 5.5%, this category includes 39 Indigenous languages; and
- French and other non-official languages make up the remaining 1.1% of homes at 0.7% and 0.4%, respectively.

Figure 5-21: Kenora District – Languages Used Most Often at Home (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-18: Kenora District – Languages Used Most Often at Home (2021)

Language	Count	Distribution
English	59,670	93.5%
Indigenous Languages	3,510	5.5%
Other Non-Official Languages	430	0.7%
French	225	0.4%
Total	**63,835**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

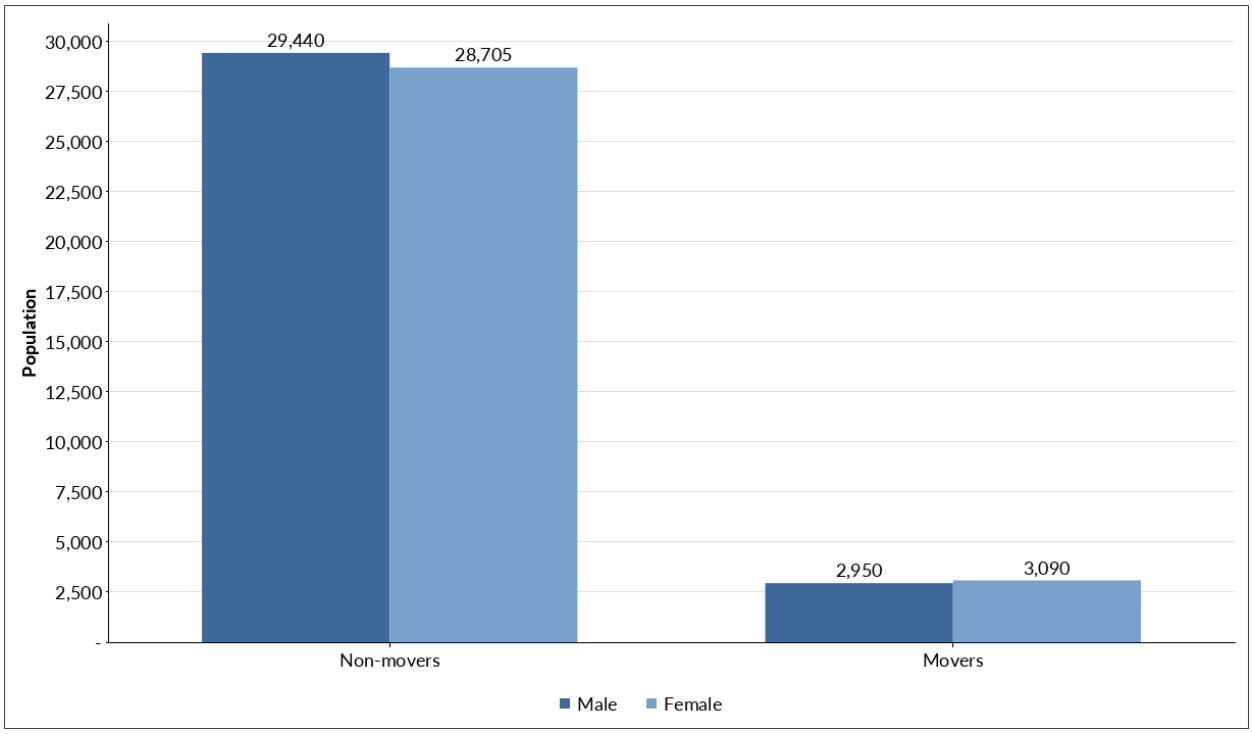
5.1.2.1.4 Mobility and Migration

Figure 5-22 and **Table 5-19** present the mobility status of Kenora District residents in 2020. Mobility status refers to the status of a person with regard to their place of residence on Census Day in relation to their place of residence on the same date 1 or 5 years earlier (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Residents are categorized as “non-movers” or “movers”. Persons who, on Census Day, lived in the same residence as they did on the same date 1 year or 5 years earlier are referred to as non-movers, and persons who, on Census Day, did not live in the same residence as they did 1 year, or 5 years earlier are referred to as movers. Movers include non-migrants, migrants, internal migrants, and external migrants. Mobility status of Kenora District residents in 2020 is summarized as follows:

- 90.6% of residents were in the “non-movers” category, 50.6% (29,440) of which were male and 49.4% (28,705) female; and
- “Movers” accounted for 9.4% of the population, 48.9% (2,950) of which were male and 51.2 % (3,090) female.

Figure 5-22: Mobility Status of Kenora District Residents (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a

Table 5-19: Mobility Status of Kenora District Residents (2020)

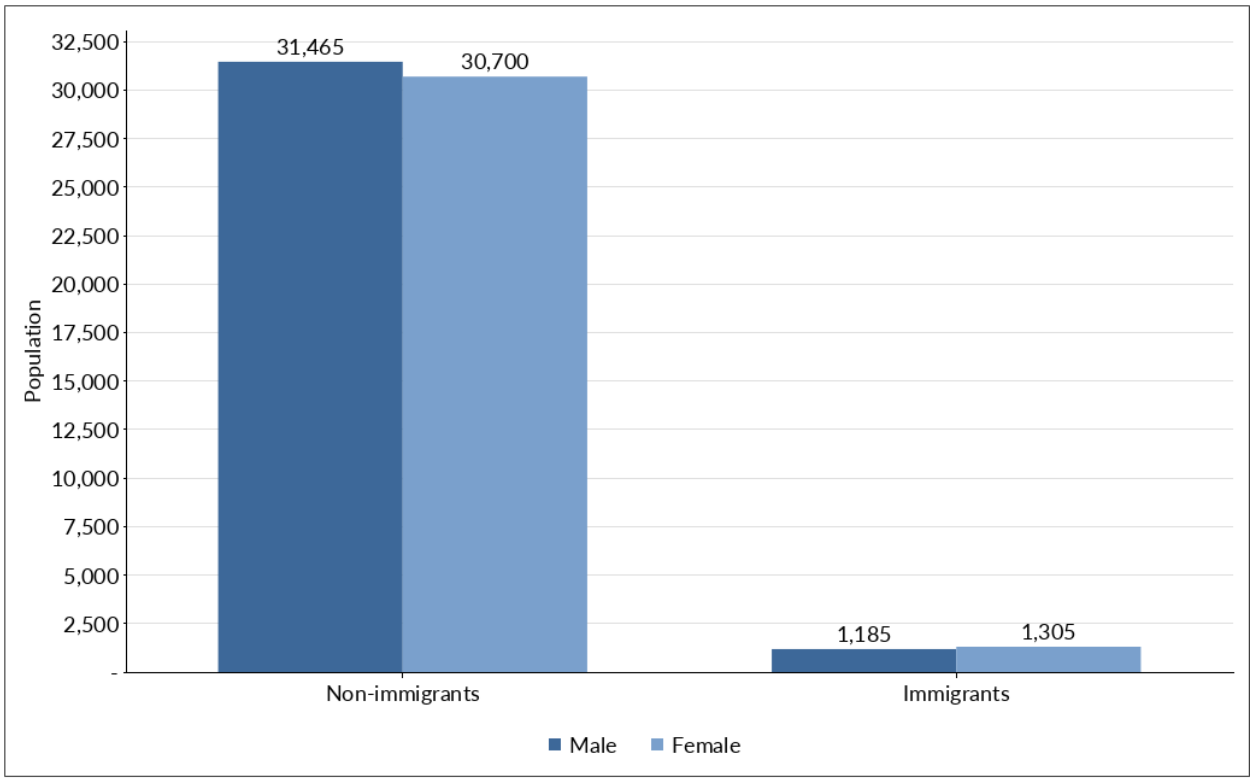
Mobility Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Non-movers	58,140	90.6%	29,440	90.9%	28,705	90.3%
Movers	6,035	9.4%	2,950	9.1%	3,090	9.7%
Total	**64,175**	**100%**	**32,390**	**100%**	**31,795**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-23 and **Table 5-20** present the immigration status of Kenora District residents for 2021, and is summarized as following:

- 4% of the population were classified as immigrants; and
- The distribution of immigrants between genders was equivalent in 2021.

Figure 5-23: Immigration Status of Population in Kenora District (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a

Table 5-20: Immigration Status of Population in Kenora District (2021)

Immigration Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Non-immigrants	62,160	96%	31,465	96%	30,700	96%
Immigrants	2,490	4%	1,185	4%	1,305	4%
Total	**64,650**	**100%**	**32,650**	**100%**	**32,005**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

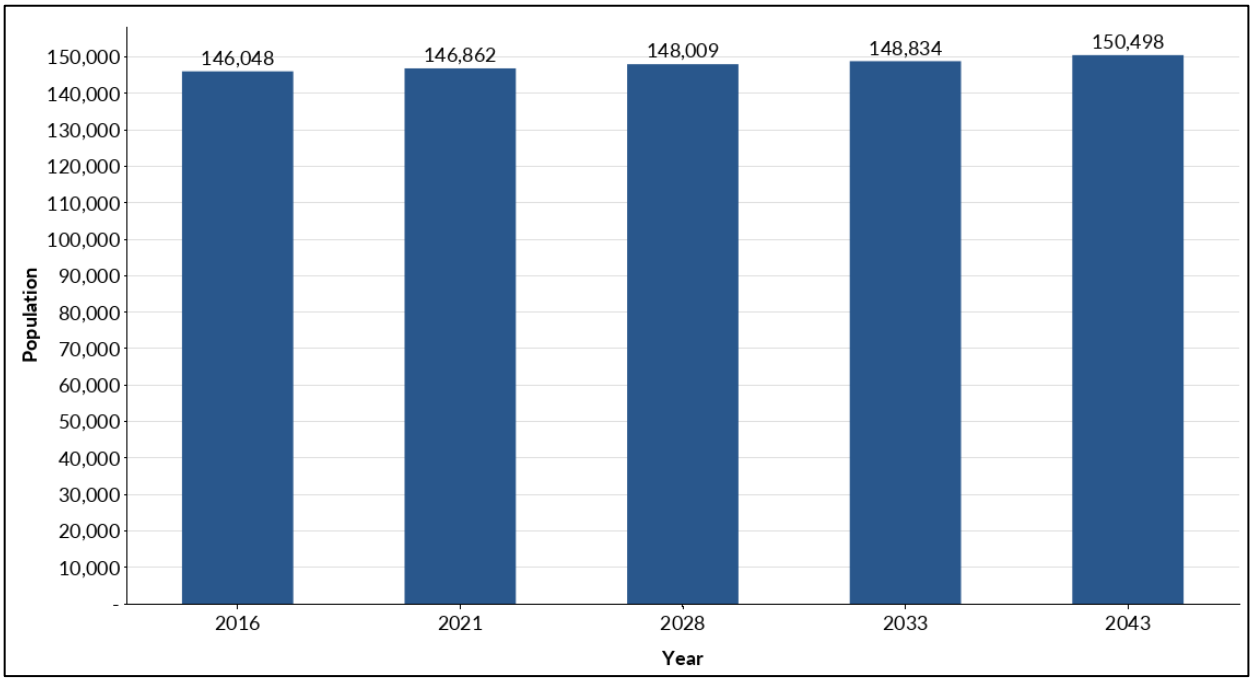
5.1.2.2 Thunder Bay District

5.1.2.2.1 Population Overview

Figure 5-24 presents the total forecasted population for the Thunder Bay District over the projection period: 2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, and 2043. Population trends in Thunder Bay District are summarized as follows:

- The total population for Thunder Bay is forecasted to increase over the projection period; and
- Based off current growth trends, the population of the District is forecasted to grow by 4,450 between 2016 and 2043, a growth of approximately 3%.

Figure 5-24: Thunder Bay District – Population Forecast (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

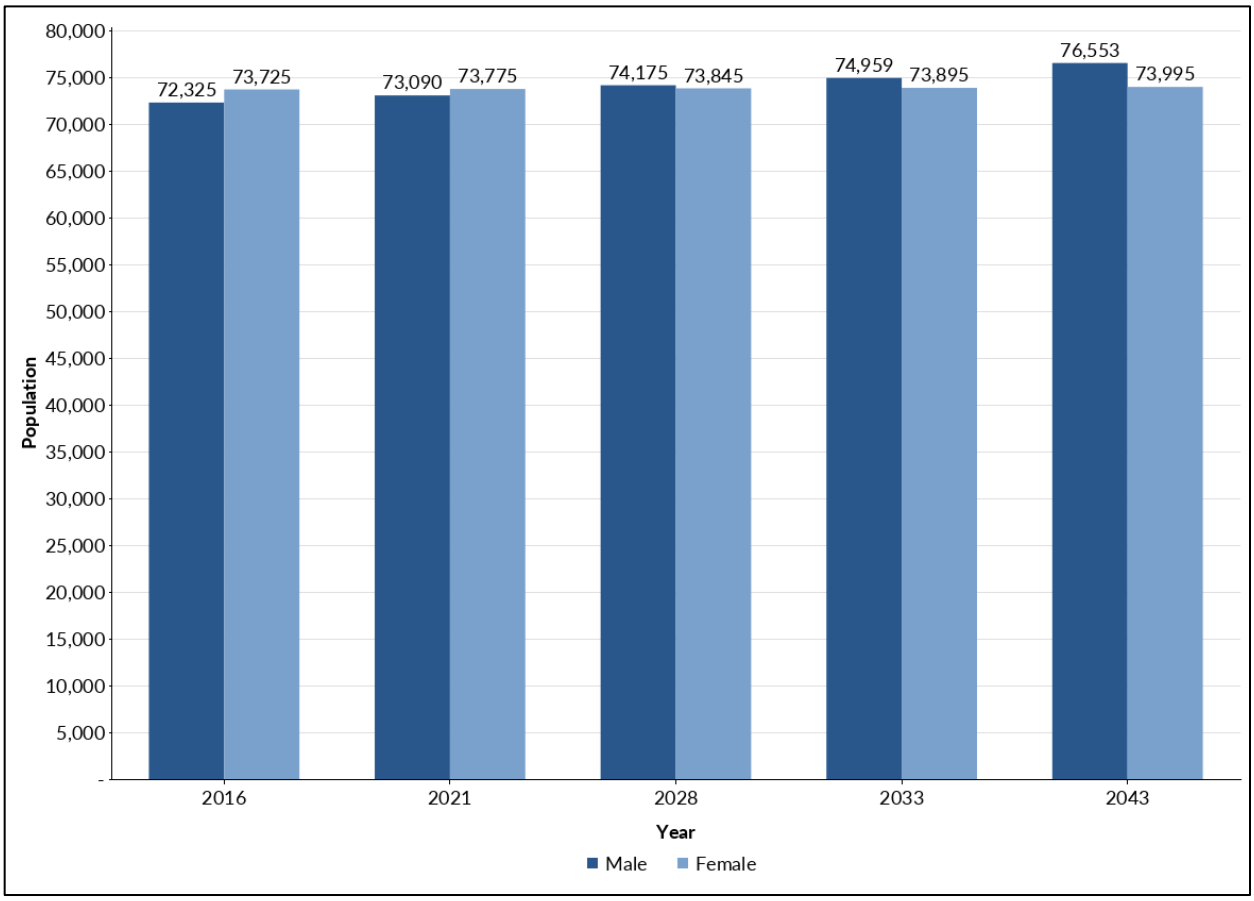


Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Figure 5-25 and **Table 5-21** present the forecasted population of the Thunder Bay District over the projection period broken down by self-identified gender. Population trends by self-identified gender in Thunder Bay District are summarized as follows:

- Over the projection period both the female and male population is forecast to increase;
- Between 2016 and 2043 the male population is forecast to increase from 72,325 to 76,553, a 5.8% increase;
- Between 2016 and 2043 the female population is forecast to increase from 73,725 to 73,995, a 0.4% increase; and
- Between 2016 and 2043, the distribution of the male population is forecast to increase from 49.5% to 50.9% and the female population decreases from 50.5% to 49.2%.

Figure 5-25: Thunder Bay District – Population Forecast by Self-Identified Gender (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-21: Thunder Bay District – Population Forecast by Self-Identified Gender (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

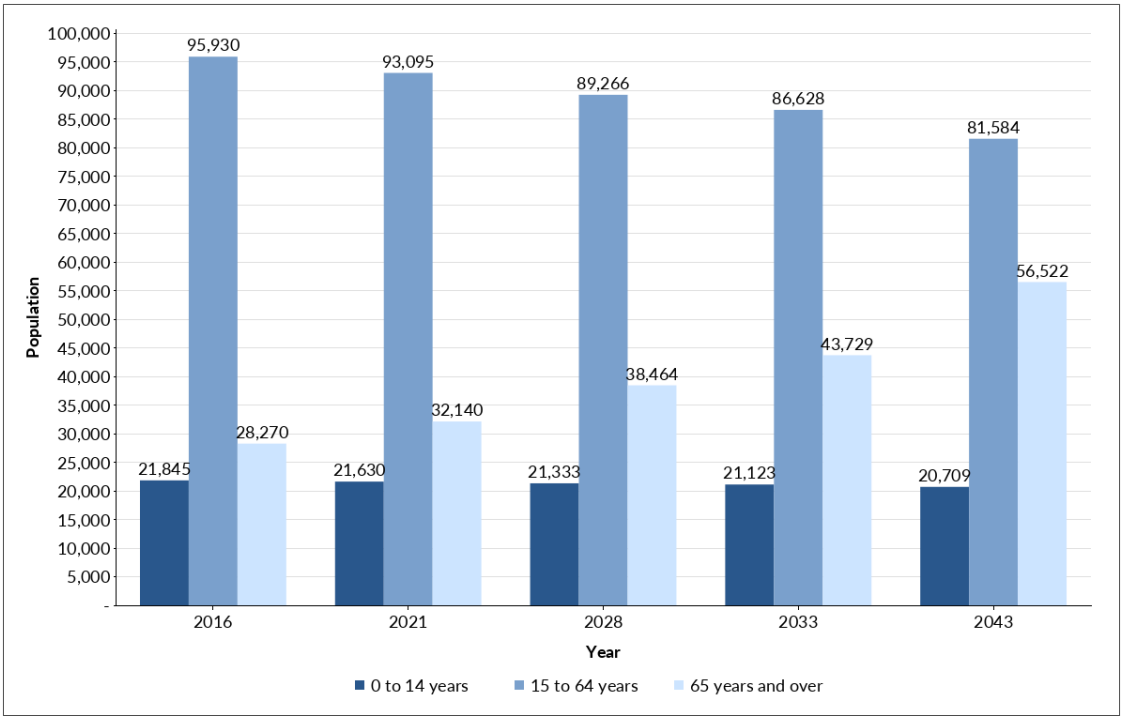
Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	146,050	100%	72,325	49.5%	73,725	50.5%
2021	146,860	100%	73,090	49.8%	73,775	50.2%
2028	148,002	100%	74,175	50.1%	73,845	49.9%
2033	148,822	100%	74,959	50.4%	73,895	49.7%
2043	150,478	100%	76,553	50.9%	73,995	49.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Figure 5-26 and **Table 5-22** present the Thunder Bay District's forecasted population over the projection period by age group. The age groups explored are 0 -14 years, 15 – 64 years, and 65 years and over. The 15 – 64 years age group represents the potential labour force. Population trends by age group in Thunder Bay District are summarized as follows:

- The 0 – 14 years and 15 – 64 years age groups are forecast to decrease over the projecting period while 65 years and over is forecast to increase;
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 0 – 14 years age group is forecast to decrease from 21,845 to 20,709, a 5.2% decrease;
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 15 – 64 years age group is forecast to decrease from 95,930 to 81,584, a 15% decrease; and
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 65 years and over age group is forecast to increase from 28,270 to 56,522, a 99.9% increase.

Figure 5-26: Thunder Bay District Population Forecast by Age Group (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-22: Thunder Bay District – Population Forecast by Age Group (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Total		0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and over	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	146,045	100%	21,845	15%	95,930	66%	28,270	19%
2021	146,865	100%	21,630	15%	93,095	63%	32,140	22%
2028	149,063	100%	21,333	14%	89,266	60%	38,464	26%
2033	151,480	100%	21,123	14%	86,628	57%	43,729	29%
2043	158,814	100%	20,709	13%	81,584	51%	56,522	36%

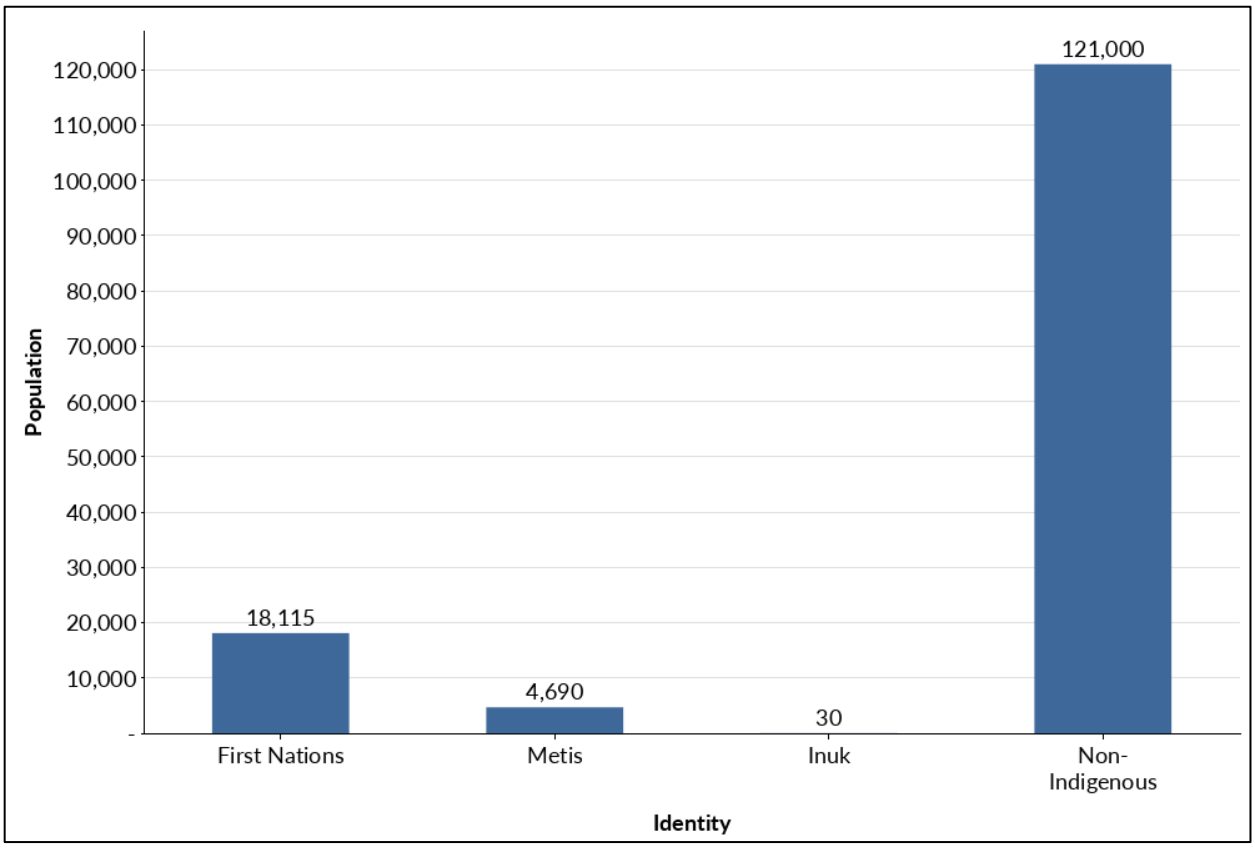
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

5.1.2.2.2 Indigenous Identity

Figure 5-27 and **Table 5-23** present the population for the Thunder Bay District by Aboriginal identity in 2021. Indigenous identity of the population in Thunder Bay District are summarized as follows:

- 84.1% of the population identifies as non-Indigenous; and
- The majority of the population identifying as Indigenous identifies as First Nations at 12.6% of the population, followed by Métis (3.3%) and Inuk (0%).

Figure 5-27: Thunder Bay District – Indigenous Identity of Population (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-23: Thunder Bay District – Indigenous Identity of Population (2021)

Indigenous Identity	Count	Distribution
First Nations	18,115	12.6%
Métis	4,690	3.3%
Inuk	30	0%
Non-Indigenous	121,000	84.1%
Total	**143,835**	**100%**

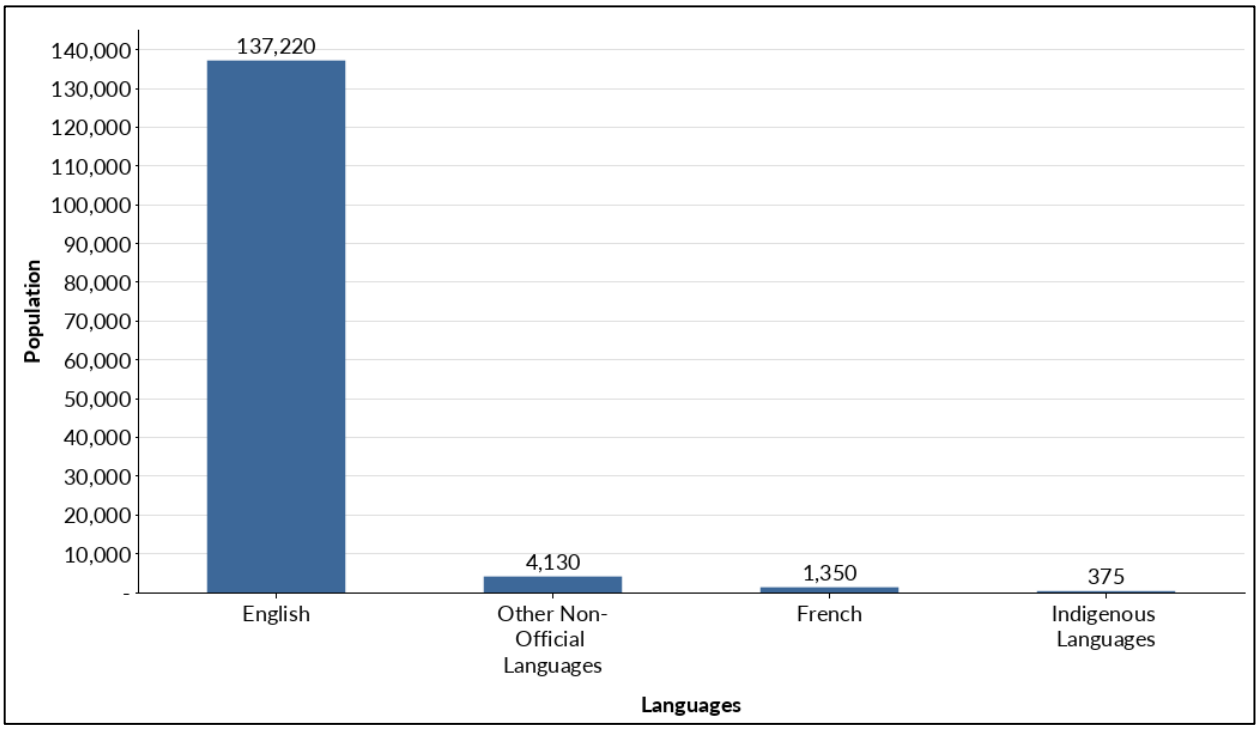
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.1.2.2.3 Languages

Figure 5-28 and **Table 5-24** present the languages spoken most often in the home within the Thunder Bay District in 2021. Languages used by the population in Thunder Bay District in 2021 are summarized as follows:

- The majority of homes in the Thunder Bay District speak English while at home at approximately 96%;
- Indigenous languages are spoken most often at home in 0.3% of homes, this category includes 39 Indigenous languages; and
- French and other non-official languages make up the remaining 3.8% of homes at 2.9% and 0.9%, respectively.

Figure 5-28: Thunder Bay District – Languages Used Most Often at Home (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-24: Thunder Bay District – Languages Used Most Often at Home (2021)

Language	Count	Distribution
English	137,220	95.9%
Other Non-Official Languages	4,130	2.9%
French	1,350	0.9%
Indigenous Languages	375	0.3%
Total	**143,075**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

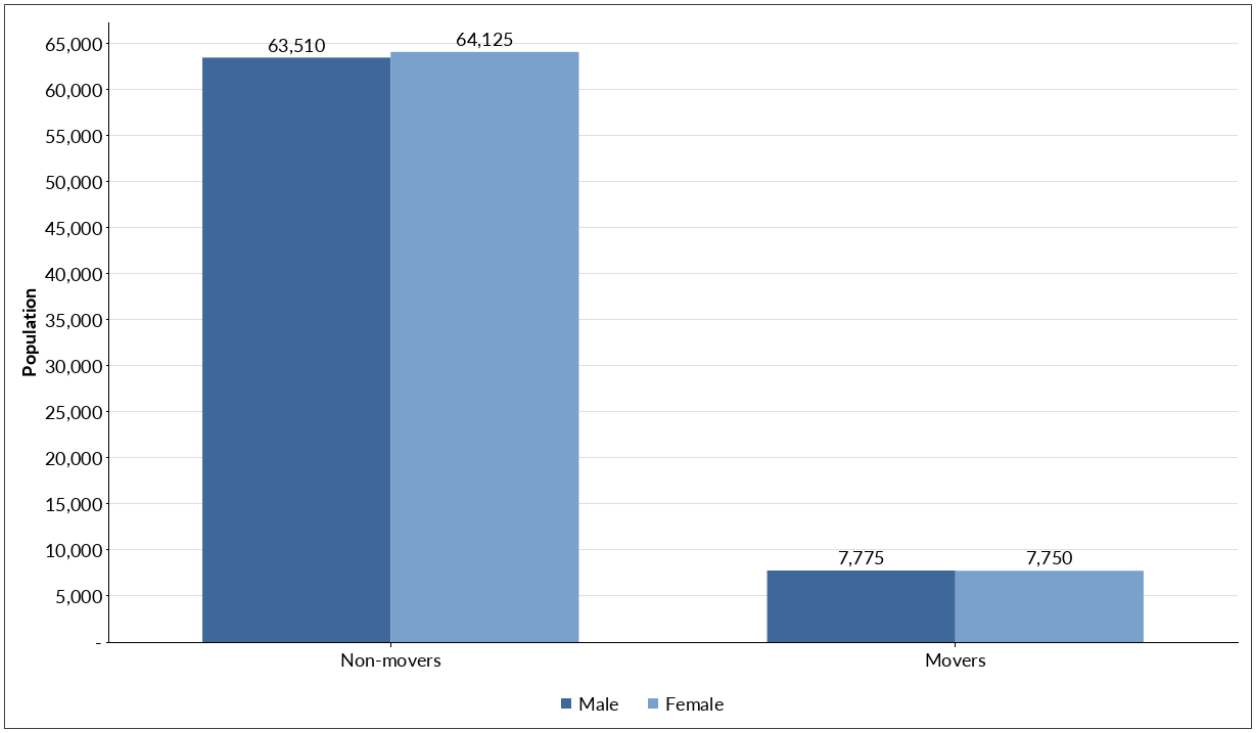
5.1.2.2.4 Mobility and Migration

Figure 5-29 and **Table 5-25** present the mobility status of Thunder Bay District residents in 2020. Mobility status refers to the status of a person regarding their place of residence on Census Day in relation to their place of residence on the same date 1 or 5 years earlier (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Residents are categorized as “non-movers” or “movers”. Persons who, on Census Day, lived in the same residence as they did on the same date 1 year or 5 years earlier are referred to as non-movers, and persons who, on Census Day, did not live in the same residence as they did 1 year, or 5 years earlier are referred to as movers. Movers include non-migrants, migrants, internal migrants, and external migrants. Mobility status of Thunder Bay District residents in 2020 is summarized as follows:

- 89.2% of residents were in the “non-movers” category; 49.8% (63,510) of which were male and 50.2% (64,125) female; and
- “Movers” accounted for 10.8% of the population, 50.1% (7,775) of which were male and 49.9% (7,750) female.

Figure 5-29: Mobility Status of Thunder Bay District Residents (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-25: Mobility Status of Thunder Bay District Residents (2020)

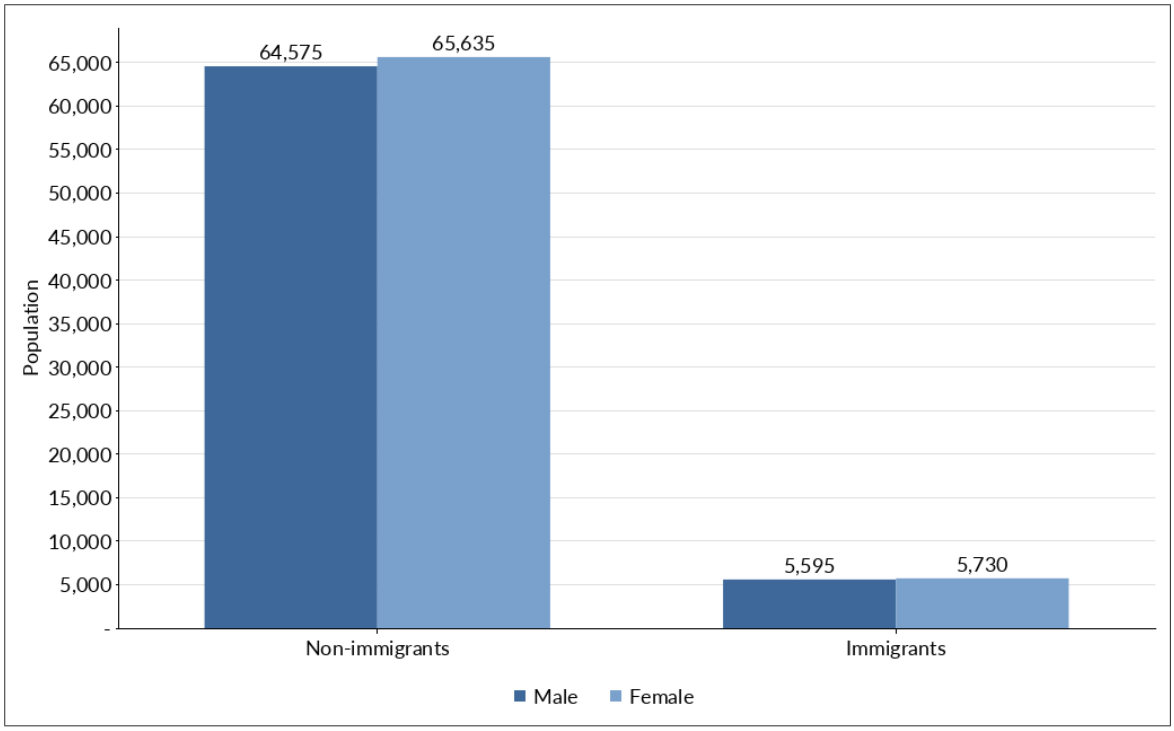
Mobility Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Non-movers	127,640	89.2%	63,510	89.1%	64,125	89.2%
Movers	15,525	10.8%	7,775	10.9%	7,750	10.8%
Total	**143,165**	**100%**	**71,285**	**100%**	**71,875**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-30 and **Table 5-26** present the immigration status of Thunder Bay District residents for 2021, and is summarized as following:

- 8% of the population were classified as immigrants; and
- The distribution of immigrants between genders was equivalent in 2021.

Figure 5-30: Immigration Status of Population in Thunder Bay District (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-26: Immigration Status of Population in Thunder Bay District (2021)

Immigration Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Non-immigrants	130,210	92%	64,575	92%	65,635	92%
Immigrants	11,330	8%	5,595	8%	5,730	8%
Total	**141,540**	**100%**	**70,170**	**100%**	**71,365**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

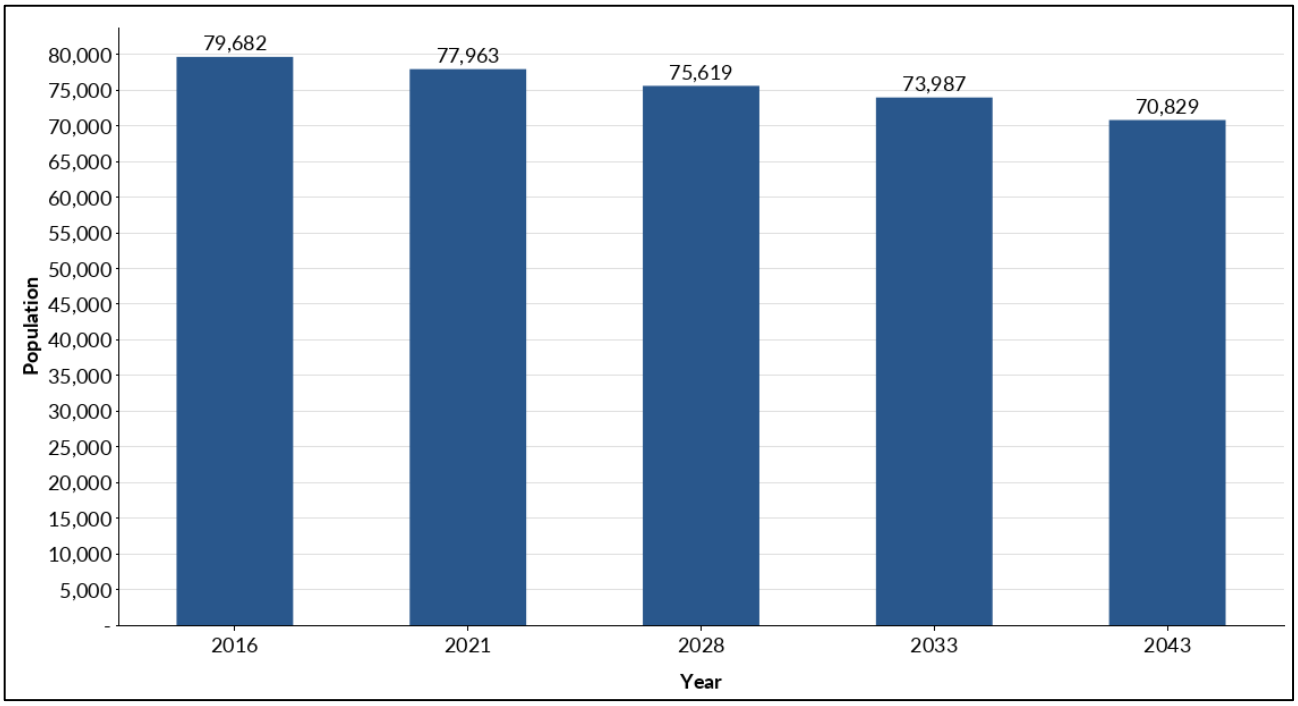
5.1.2.3 Cochrane District

5.1.2.3.1 Population Overview

Figure 5-31 presents the total forecasted population for the Cochrane District over the projection period: 2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, and 2043. Population trends in Cochrane District are summarized as follows:

- The total population for Cochrane is forecasted to decrease over the projection period; and
- Based off current growth trends, the population of Cochrane is forecasted to decrease by 8,853 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 11%.

Figure 5-31: Cochrane District – Population Forecast (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

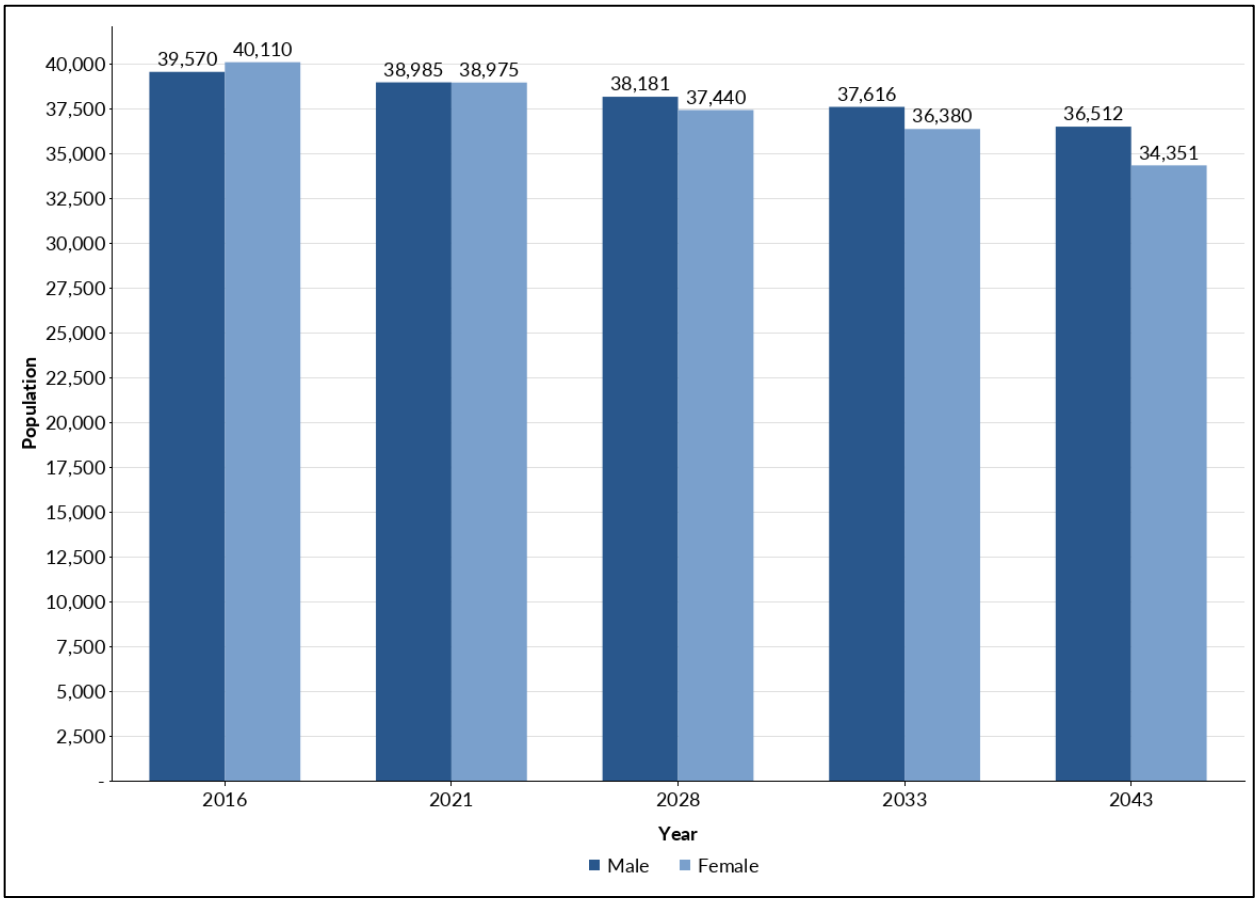


Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Figure 5-32 and **Table 5-27** present the forecasted population of the Cochrane District over the projection period broken down by self-identified gender. Population trends by self-identified gender in Cochrane District are summarized as follows:

- Between 2016 and 2043, the distribution of the male population is forecast to increase from 49.7% to 51.5% and the female population is forecast to decrease from 50.3% to 48.5%;
- Over the projection period both the female and male population is forecast to decrease;
- Between 2016 and 2043 the male population is forecast to decrease from 39,570 to 36,512, a 7.7% decrease;
- Between 2016 and 2043 the female population is forecast to decrease from 40,110 to 34,351, a 14.4% decrease; and
- Between 2016 and 2043, the distribution of the male population is forecast to increase from 49.7% to 51.5% and the female population decreases from 50.3% to 48.5%.

Figure 5-32: Cochrane District – Population Forecast by Self-Identified Gender (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-27: Cochrane District – Population Forecast by Self-Identified Gender (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

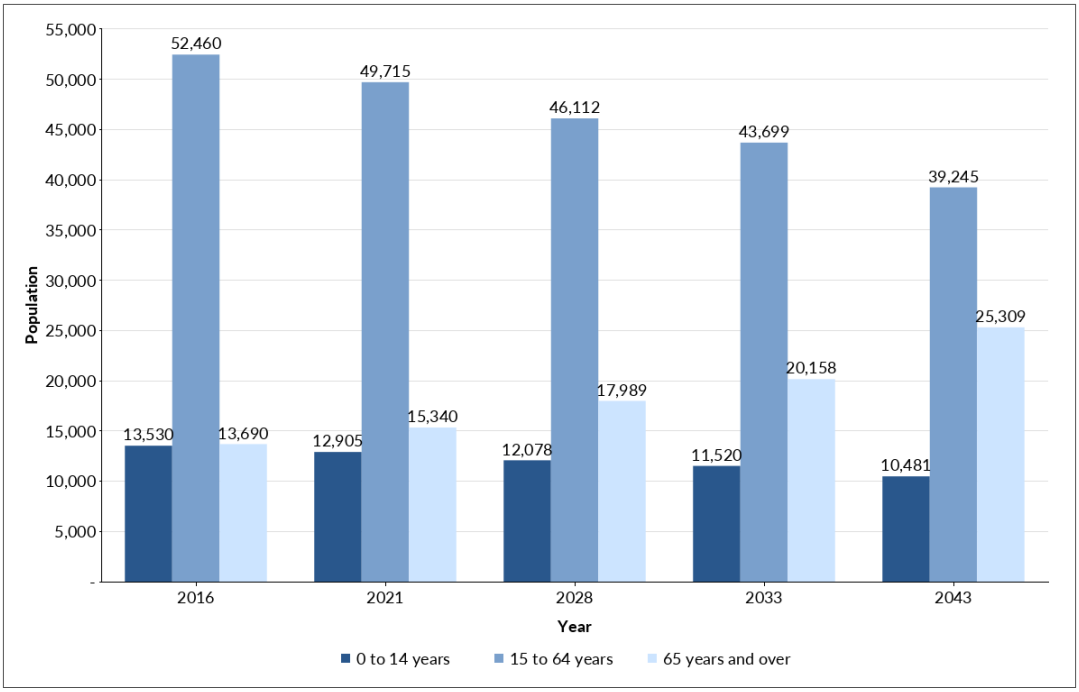
Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	79,680	100%	39,570	49.7%	40,110	50.3%
2021	77,965	100%	38,985	50.0%	38,975	50.0%
2028	75,626	100%	38,181	50.5%	37,440	49.5%
2033	73,998	100%	37,616	50.8%	36,380	49.2%
2043	70,847	100%	36,512	51.5%	34,351	48.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Figure 5-33 and **Table 5-28** present the forecasted population for the Cochrane District over the projection period by age group. The age groups explored are 0 -14 years, 15 – 64 years, and 65 years and over. Population trends by age group in Cochrane District are summarized as follows:

- The 15 – 64 years age group represents the potential labour force;
- The 0 – 14 years and 15 – 64 years age groups are both declining over the projecting period while 65 years and over are growing;
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 0 – 14 years age group is forecast to decrease from 13,530 to 10,481, a 22.5% decrease;
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 15 – 64 years age group is forecast to decrease from 52,460 to 39,245, a 25.2% decrease; and
- Between 2016 and 2043, the 65 years and over age group is forecast to increase from 13,690 to 25,309, a 84.9% increase.

Figure 5-33: Cochrane District – Population Forecast by Age Group (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

Table 5-28: Cochrane District – Population Forecast by Age Group (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Total		0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and over	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	146,045	100%	21,845	15%	95,930	66%	28,270	19%
2021	146,865	100%	21,630	15%	93,095	63%	32,140	22%
2028	149,063	100%	21,333	14%	89,266	60%	38,464	26%
2033	151,480	100%	21,123	14%	86,628	57%	43,729	29%
2043	158,814	100%	20,709	13%	81,584	51%	56,522	36%

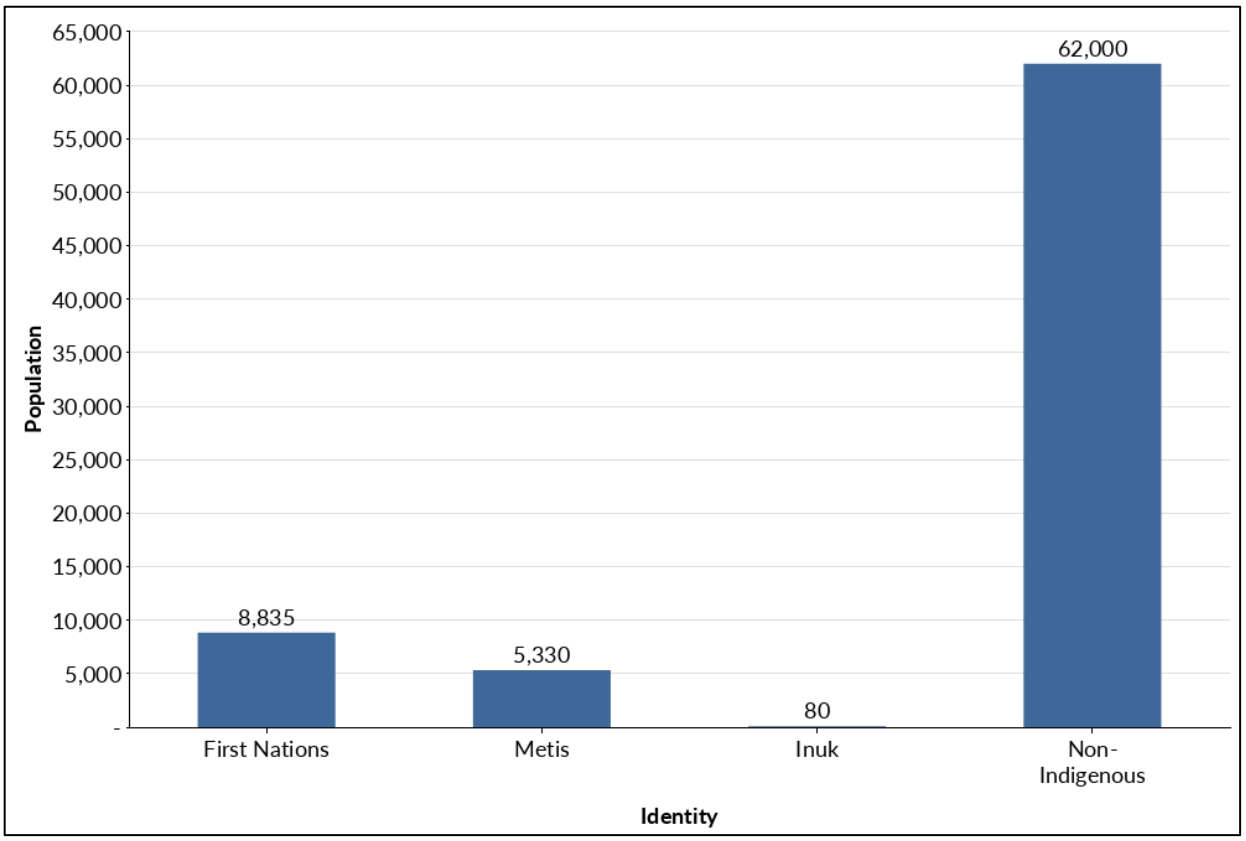
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017a; 2022a.

5.1.2.3.2 Indigenous Identity

Figure 5-34 and **Table 5-29** present the population for the Cochrane District by Aboriginal identity for 2021. Indigenous identity of the population in Cochrane District are summarized as follows:

- 81.3% of the population identifies as non-Indigenous; and
- The majority of the population identifying as Indigenous identifies as First Nations at 11.6% of the population, followed by Métis (7%) and Inuk (0.1%).

Figure 5-34: Cochrane District – Indigenous Identity of Population (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-29: Cochrane District – Indigenous Identity of Population (2021)

Indigenous Identity	Count	Distribution
First Nations	8,835	11.6%
Métis	5,330	7.0%
Inuk	80	0.1%
Non-Indigenous	62,000	81.3%
Total	**76,245**	**100%**

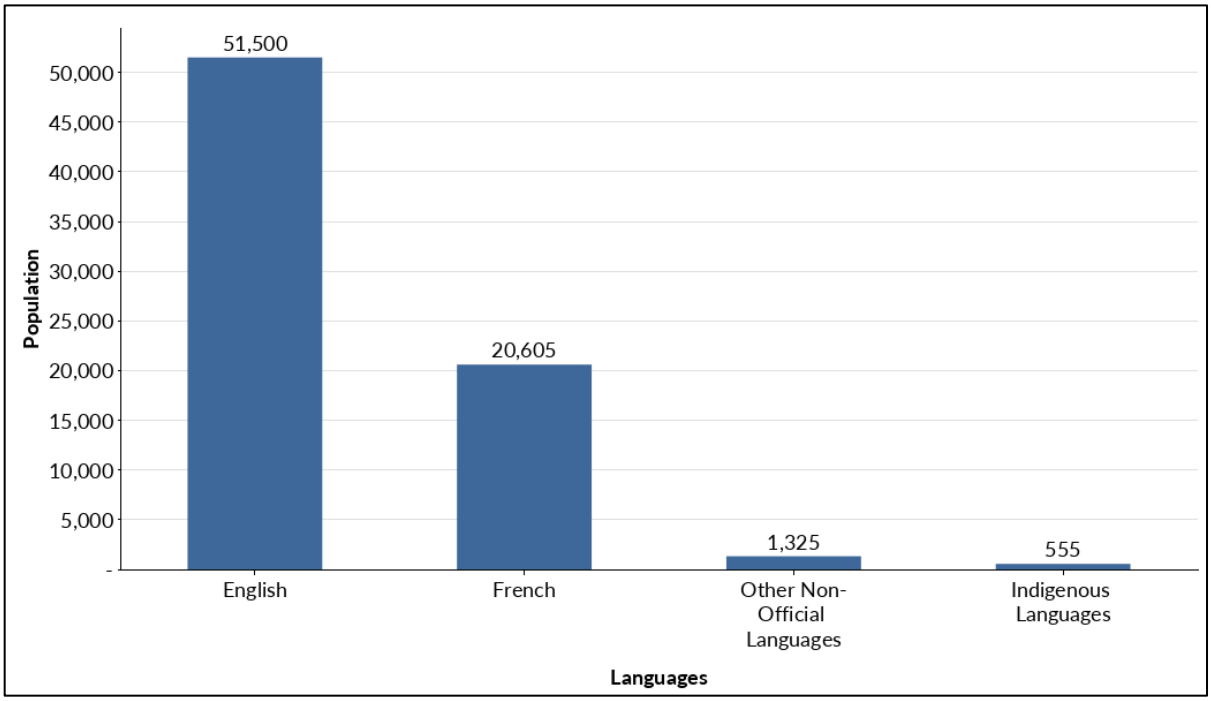
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.1.2.3.3 Languages

Figure 5-35 and **Table 5-30** present the languages spoken most often in the home within the Cochrane District in 2021. Languages used by the population in Cochrane District in 2021 are summarized as follows:

- The majority of homes in the Cochrane District speak English while at home at approximately 70%;
- Indigenous languages are spoken most often at home in 0.8% of homes, this category includes 39 Indigenous languages; and
- French and other non-official languages make up the remaining 29.7% of homes at 1.8% and 27.9%, respectively.

Figure 5-35: Cochrane District – Languages Used Most Often at Home (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-30: Cochrane District – Languages Used Most Often at Home (2021)

Language	Count	Distribution
English	51,500	69.6%
French	20,605	27.9%
Other Non-Official Languages	1,325	1.8%
Indigenous Languages	555	0.8%
Total	**73,985**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

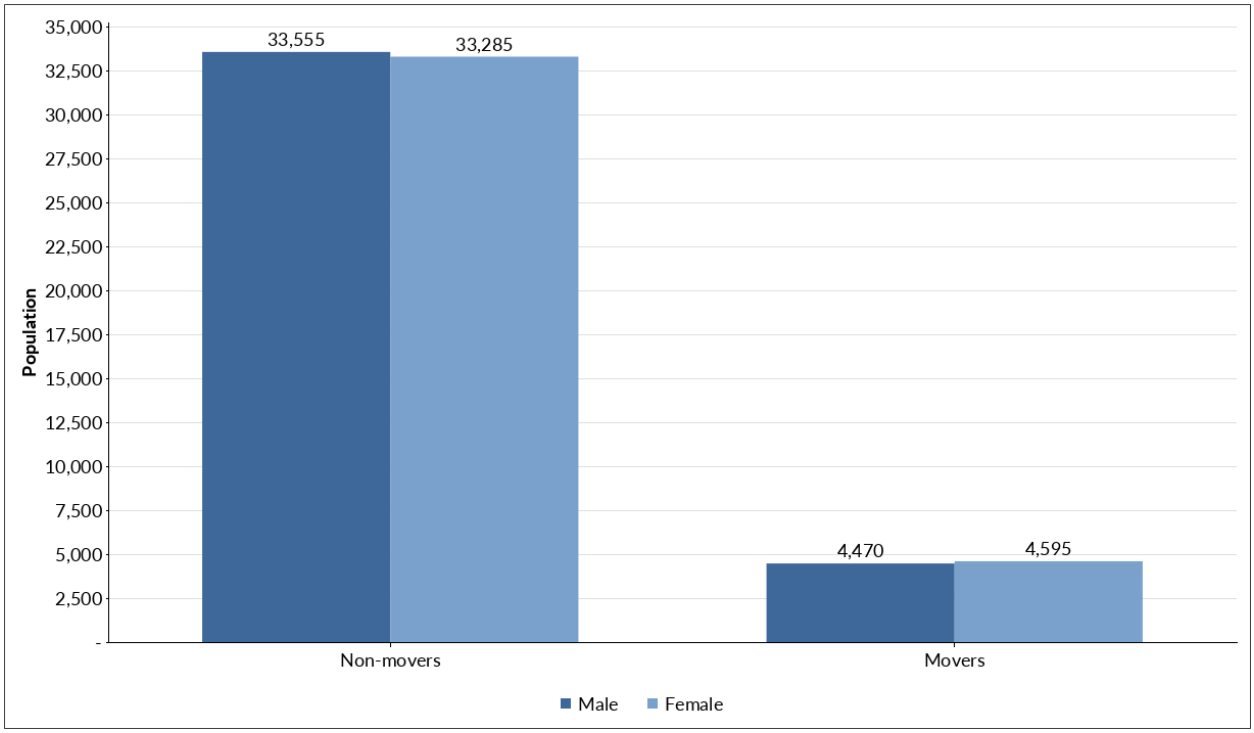
5.1.2.3.4 Mobility and Migration

Figure 5-36 and **Table 5-31** present the mobility status of Cochrane District residents in 2020. Mobility status refers to the status of a person with regard to their place of residence on Census Day in relation to their place of residence on the same date 1 or 5 years earlier (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Residents are categorized as “non-movers” or “movers”. Persons who, on Census Day, lived in the same residence as they did on the same date 1 year or 5 years earlier are referred to as non-movers, and persons who, on Census Day, did not live in the same residence as they did 1 year, or 5 years earlier are referred to as movers. Movers include non-migrants, migrants, internal migrants, and external migrants. Mobility status of Cochrane District residents in 2020 is summarized as follows:

- 88.1% of residents were in the “non-movers” category’50.2% (33,555) of which were male and 49.8% (33,285) female; and
- “Movers” accounted for 11.9% of the population, 49.3% (4,470) of which were male and 50.7% (4,595) female.

Figure 5-36: Mobility Status of Cochrane District Residents (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-31: Mobility Status of Cochrane District Residents (2020)

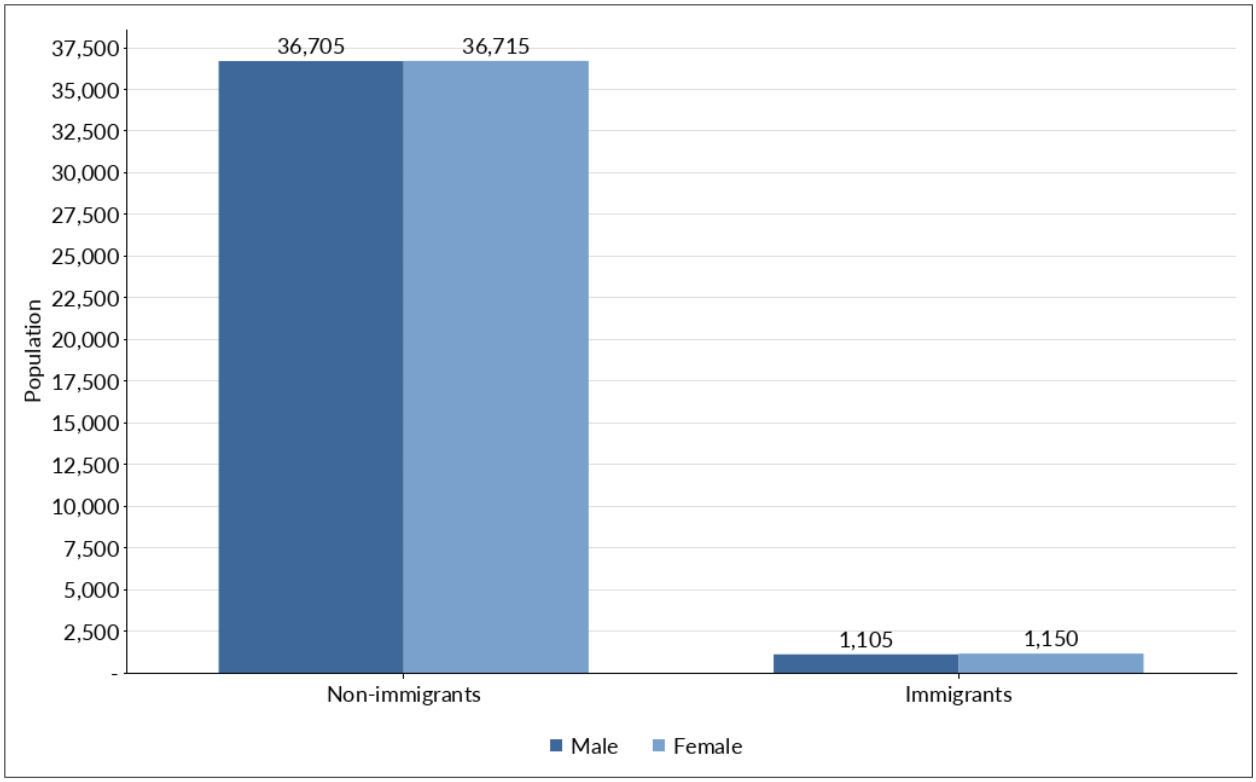
Mobility Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Non-movers	66,840	88.1%	33,555	88.2%	33,285	87.9%
Movers	9,060	11.9%	4,470	11.8%	4,595	12.1%
Total	**75,900**	**100%**	**38,025**	**100%**	**37,880**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-37 and **Table 5-32** present the immigration status of Thunder Bay District residents for 2021, and is summarized as following:

- 3% of the population were classified as immigrants; and
- The distribution of immigrants between genders was equivalent in 2021.

Figure 5-37: Immigration Status of Population in Cochrane District (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-32: Immigration Status of Population in Cochrane District (2021)

Immigration Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Non-immigrants	73,425	97%	36,705	97%	36,715	97%
Immigrants	2,250	3%	1,105	3%	1,150	3%
Total	**75,675**	**100%**	**37,810**	**100%**	**37,865**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2 Housing and Accommodations

Housing and accommodations are an important element of life for First Nations people. In 2021, it was recorded in Canada that one in five First Nations people (21.4% or 224,280 people) consider their household to be crowded (Statistics Canada, 2022a). This problem is primarily due to houses not having enough rooms for families and multiple generation of families living in the same household. Furthermore, many houses on First Nation reserves are in poor condition and require major repairs. The LSA and RSA boundaries are described in **Section 2.1**.

The Socio-Economic Baseline provides information that will enable the assessment of the effects of the proposed Project on housing and accommodations by using the following indicators:

- Household characteristics;
- Housing characteristics; and
- Housing condition.

These indicators help with understanding existing socio-economic conditions of the community and predict potential effects of the Project on the community's quality of life. The reason why these indicators are important is described below:

- Housing characteristics: This includes information about the types of housing, ownership status, age of housing, and so on. Changes induced by the Project, such as an influx of workers or an increase in local employment and income, could affect housing demand and affordability. This can also indicate the community's capacity to accommodate changes or influxes of people due to project activities.
- Household characteristics: These may involve the size and composition of households, income levels, employment status, etc. This data can help identify households that might be more vulnerable to changes induced by the Project (e.g., lower-income households that could be impacted by rising housing prices). This can also provide a basis for understanding the potential effects on community cohesion and social structures.
- Housing condition: This refers to the physical condition of housing in the community (e.g., needs for repair, suitability for occupancy). If the community already has a significant proportion of homes in poor condition, project-induced changes could exacerbate these issues or could provide opportunities to improve housing conditions if planned properly.

The locations in the LSA where data were collected include Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation. The locations in the RSA where data were collected include the Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District.

Understanding the baseline condition of housing and accommodations in the LSA and RSA will be critical in planning the Project to align with these community aspirations regarding housing.

Moreover, if the Project is expected to bring an influx of workers into the community (either temporarily or permanently), these indicators will be critical in planning for and managing potential changes in local housing demand.

The housing indicators aid in understanding the potential effects of the Project on the community's living conditions and in developing strategies to enhance benefits and mitigate any negative effects.

5.2.1 Local Study Area

Webequie First Nation has 171 private dwellings as of 2021, 166 of which are occupied by usual residents. 95% of dwellings are categorized as government or band housing. Nearly half of the occupied dwellings are shared by 5 or more persons and over half have 5 or less rooms making overcrowding and ongoing issue within the community. The majority of homes in the community were built over 20 years ago with approximately 40% being classified as unsuitable for the size of the household. Nearly half of the houses in Webequie First Nation need major repairs. On January 10, 2019, upon completion of the Government of Canada's Community Wellbeing Pilot Project (launched in 2016), 14 modular homes, 02 four-plexes, 05 single family homes, and renovations for 14 existing homes were carried out, which provided for improved housing conditions to 29 families (Newswire, 2019). Additionally, the Northern Indigenous housing organization was provided funding of $ 287.1M for urgent projects by the federal government to reduce gaps on housing challenges including homelessness for urban, rural and northern communities (CBC News, 2023).

The seven First Nations communities making up the remainder of the LSA have a total of 1,389 private dwellings, 1,166 of which are occupied by usual residents. 86% of dwellings are categorized as government or band housing. Attawapiskat First Nation has the highest number of dwellings that are owned at 17%. Approximately 40% of dwellings are occupied by 5 or more persons and over 60% of dwellings have 5 or less rooms making overcrowding an ongoing concern. Approximately one third of dwellings in the LSA are considered unsuitable for the size of the household, the highest concentration being in Nibinamik First Nation. Nearly half of the housing stock within First Nations communities needs major repairs.

Understanding these existing conditions helps anticipate the potential effects of the Project on the communities' housing situation. If the Project is likely to increase population size (either temporarily or permanently), it could increase demand for housing and exacerbate existing issues unless appropriate measures are taken.

As part of the EA/IA, strategies would need to be developed to mitigate these potential effects. For example, it might be necessary to invest in new housing or in improvements to existing housing as part of the Project. The Project could also potentially provide an opportunity to address some of the existing housing issues in the communities if planned and managed appropriately.

5.2.1.1 Housing Characteristics

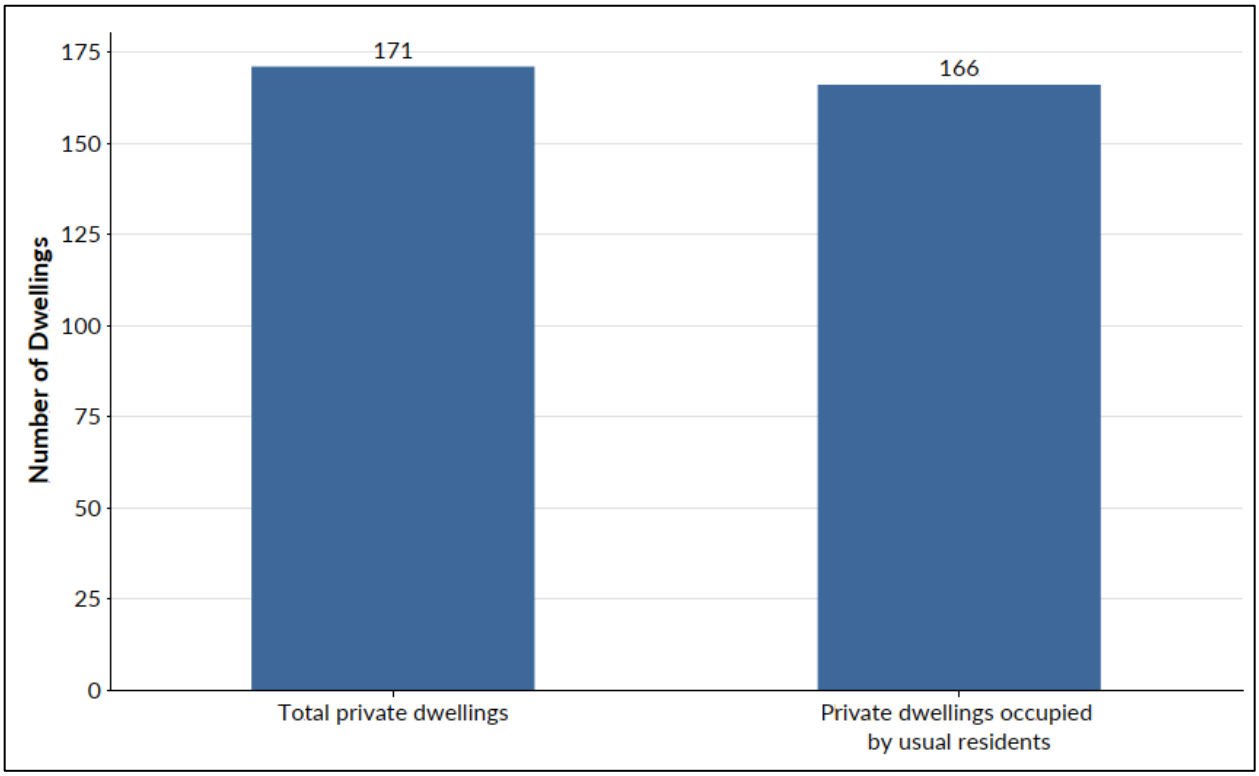
The following subsections describe housing characteristics which include the number of private dwellings and occupied private dwellings, structure type of private dwellings, and tenure type of private dwellings for Webequie First Nation and other Indigenous communities and groups within the LSA.

5.2.1.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Figure 5-38 presents the total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in Webequie in 2021. Private dwelling occupied by usual residents refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing (Statistics Canada, 2019). Information on private dwellings in Webequie in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- There were 171 total private dwellings in Webequie; and
- Of the 171 private dwellings, 166 (97.1%) were occupied by usual residents.

Figure 5-38: Total Private Dwellings and Occupied Private Dwellings in Webequie First Nation (2021)



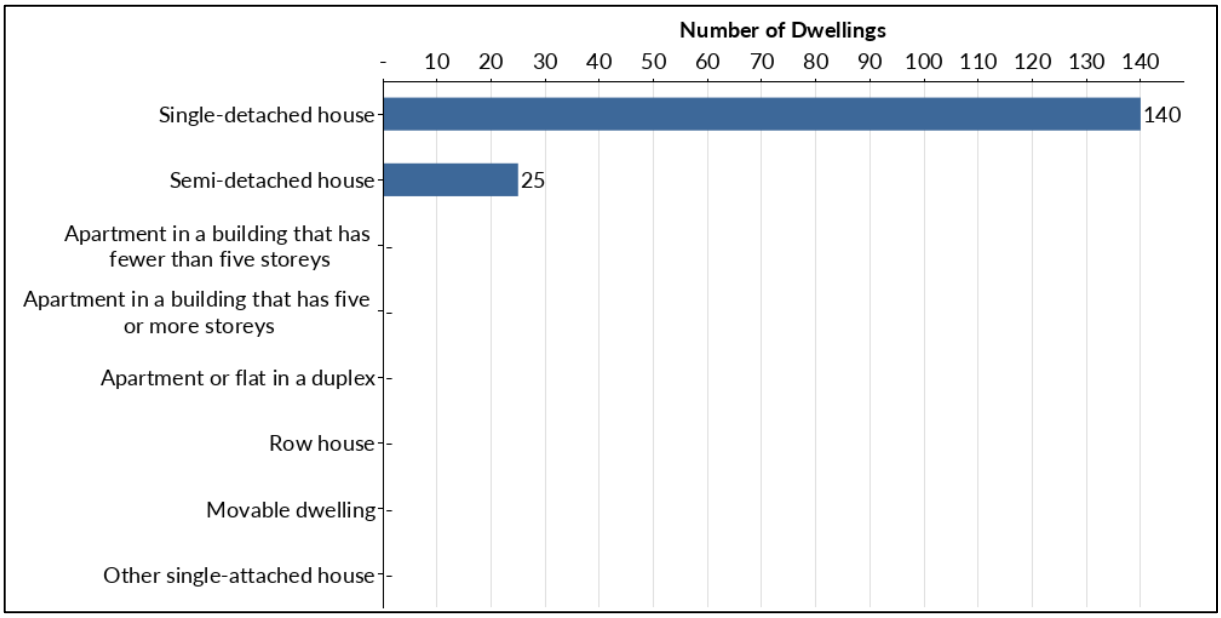
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-39 and **Table 5-33** present the total occupied dwellings in Webequie by structure type in 2021. Structure type of occupied dwellings in Webequie in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of dwellings were classified as single-detached at 84.8%; and
- The remaining dwellings were classified as semi-detached and account for 15.2% of the occupied dwellings in Webequie.

Figure 5-39: Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Structural Type in Webequie (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-33: Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Structural Type in Webequie (2021)

Structural Type	Count	Distribution
Single-detached house	140	84.8%
Semi-detached house	25	15.2%
Row house	-	0%
Apartment or flat in duplex	-	0%
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	-	0%
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	-	0%
Other single-attached house	-	0%
Moveable dwelling	-	0%
Total	**165**	**100%**

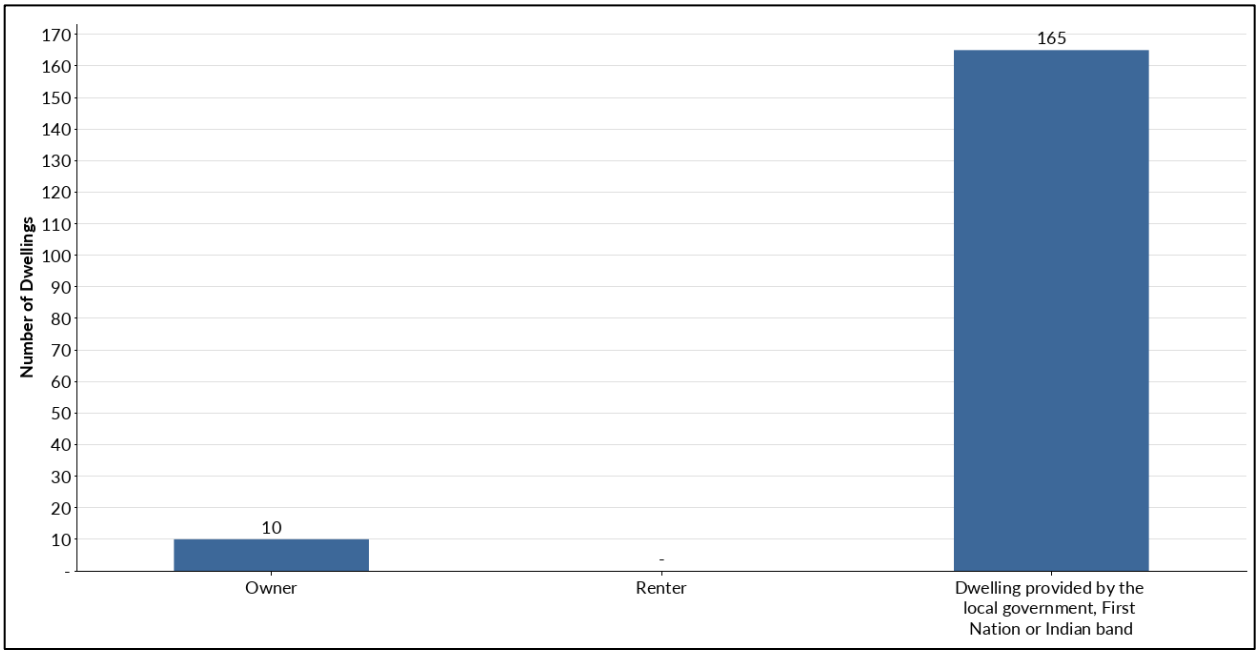
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-40 and **Table 5-34** present the private dwellings by tenure (owned, rented, or government/band housing) for Webequie First Nation in 2021. Tenure of dwellings in Webequie in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of the private dwellings in Webequie were considered government or band housing, accounting for 94.3% of dwellings; and
- The remaining private dwellings were owned and account for 5.7% of dwellings.

Figure 5-40: Private Dwellings by Tenure in Webequie (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-34: Private Dwellings by Tenure in Webequie (2021)

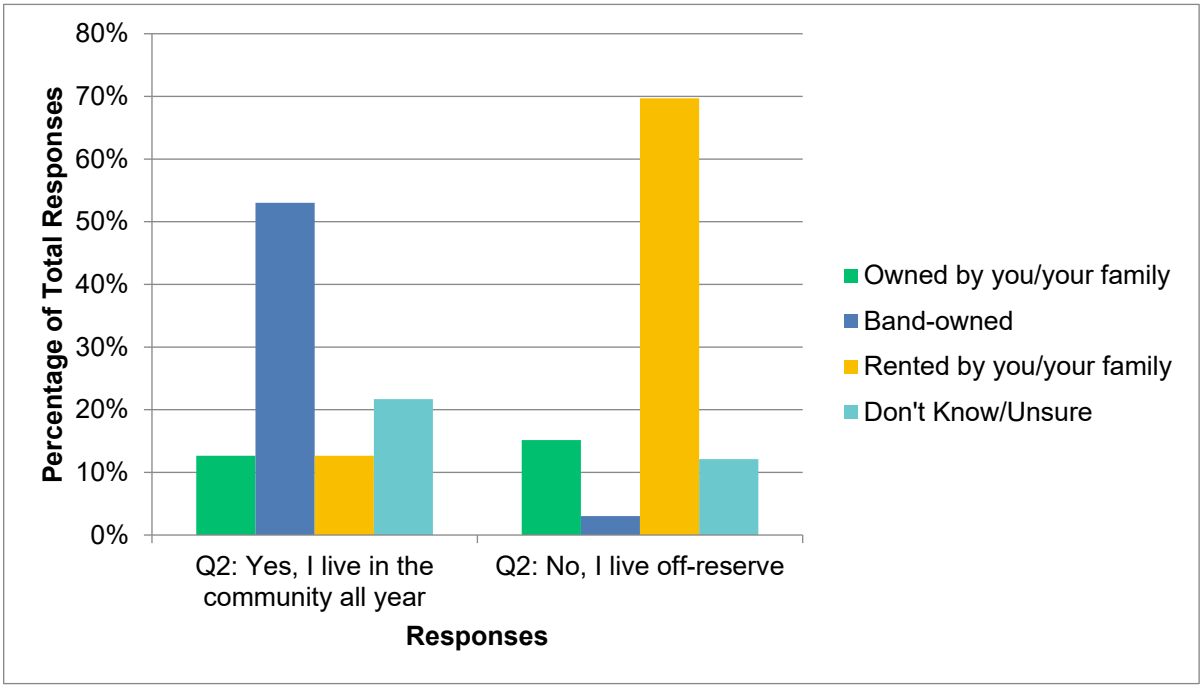
Tenure	Count	Distribution
Owner	10	5.7%
Renter	0	0%
Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	165	94.3%
Total	**175**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

A Socio-Economic survey was conducted in 2022 to collect data on community housing and accommodation from individuals living on-reserve and off-reserve (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). When individuals were asked about the ownership of their housing and accommodation, 88 out of 166 responses from individuals living on reserve (53.0%) indicated that their housing was Band-owned, while 23 out of 33 responses from individuals (69.7%) that live off reserve indicated that their housing was rented, as shown in **Figure 5-41**.

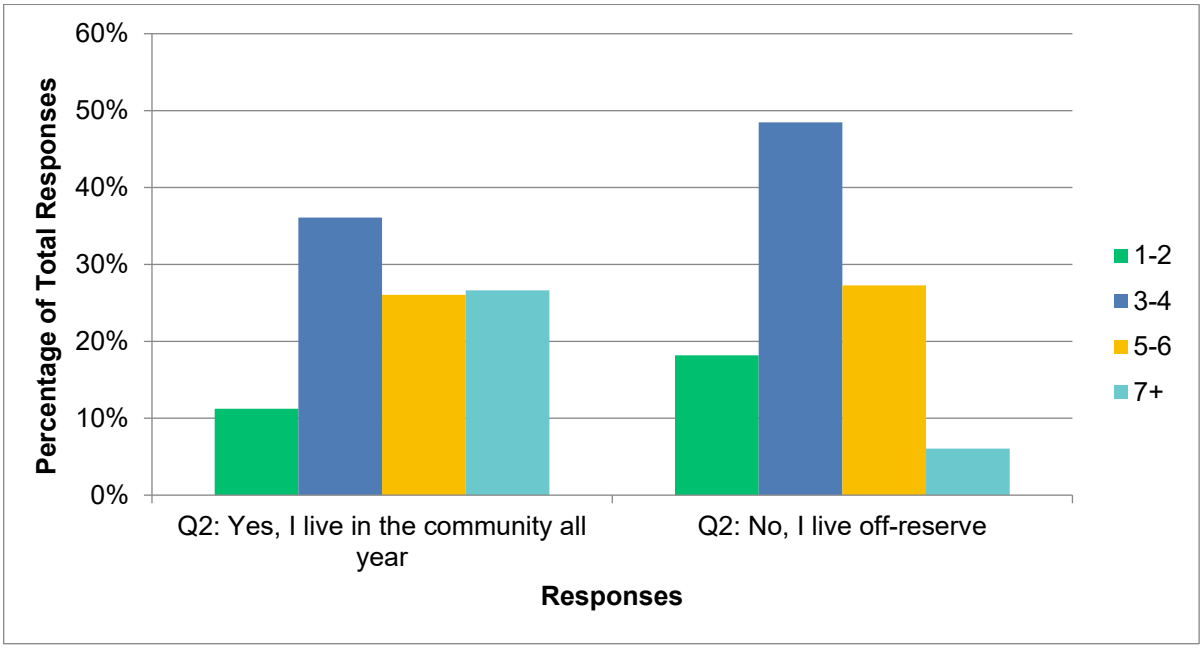
Figure 5-41: Housing Ownership – WSR Socio-Economic Survey (2022)



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022a

When individuals were asked about their housing and accommodation situation, individuals living on-reserve and individuals living off-reserve had similar responses. Most households are home to three to four community members, 61 out of 169 responses from individuals live on-reserve (36.1%), and 16 out of 33 responses from individuals live off-reserve (48.5%), as shown in **Figure 5-42**. Homes with at least seven members were much more common on-reserve (26.6%) compared to houses off-reserve (6.1%).

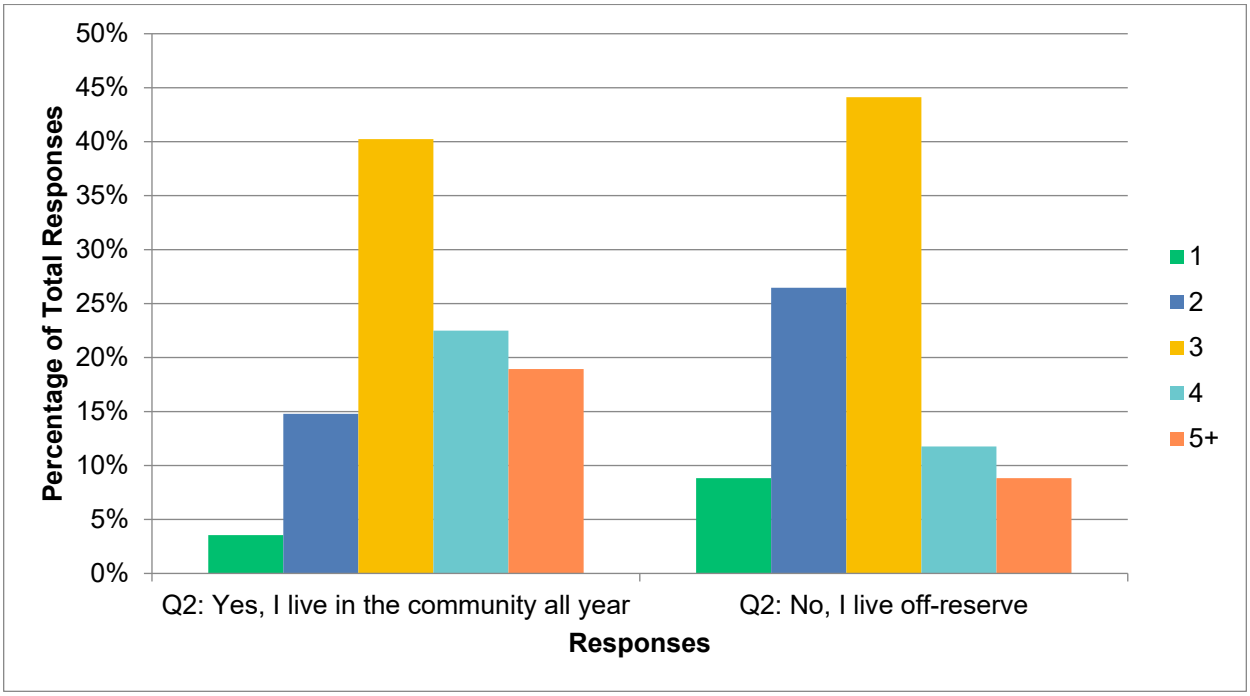
Figure 5-42: Number of People per House – WSR Socio-Economic Survey (2022)



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022a.

Despite most households having 3 to 4 members, the majority of houses both on reserve and off reserve have 3 bedrooms as indicated by 68 out of 169 responses from individuals living on reserve (40.2%) and 15 out of 34 responses from individuals living off reserve (44.1%), as shown on **Figure 5-43**.

Figure 5-43: Number of Bedrooms per House – WSR Socio-Economic Survey (2022)

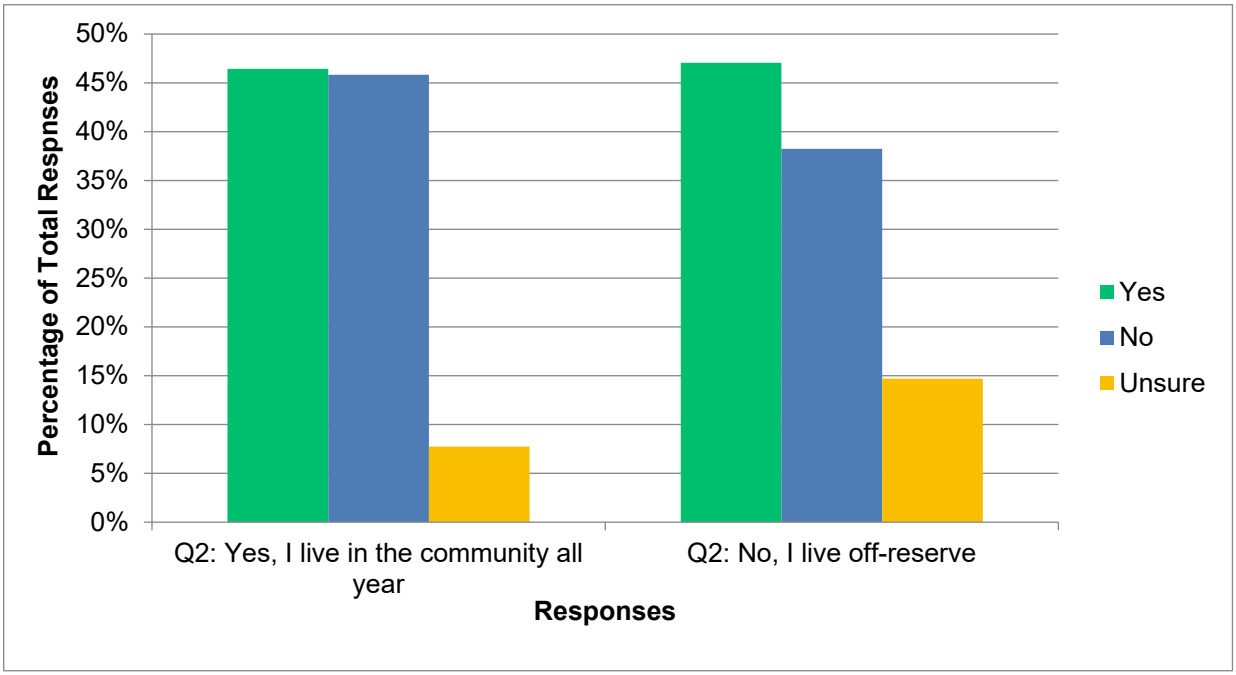


Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022a.

However, as shown on **Figure 5-48**, when individuals were asked whether they felt overcrowded in their living space, the number of individuals living on reserve who responded with “Yes [I feel overcrowded]” (46.4%) was almost equal to those also living on reserve who responded with “No [I do not feel overcrowded]” (45.8%),; the remaining respondents who responded that they were unsure (7.7%).

Slightly more respondents living of reserve felt overcrowded (47.1%) than those that did not (38.2%); The remaining respondents indicated they were unsure (14.7%). Community members have indicated that temporary housing such as “couch-surfing” was somewhat common. For example, one grandmother moved out of her own home and stayed with a friend, to free up more space for her children and grandchildren (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

Figure 5-44: Respondents on Whether They Felt Overcrowded – WSR Socio-Economic Survey (2022)



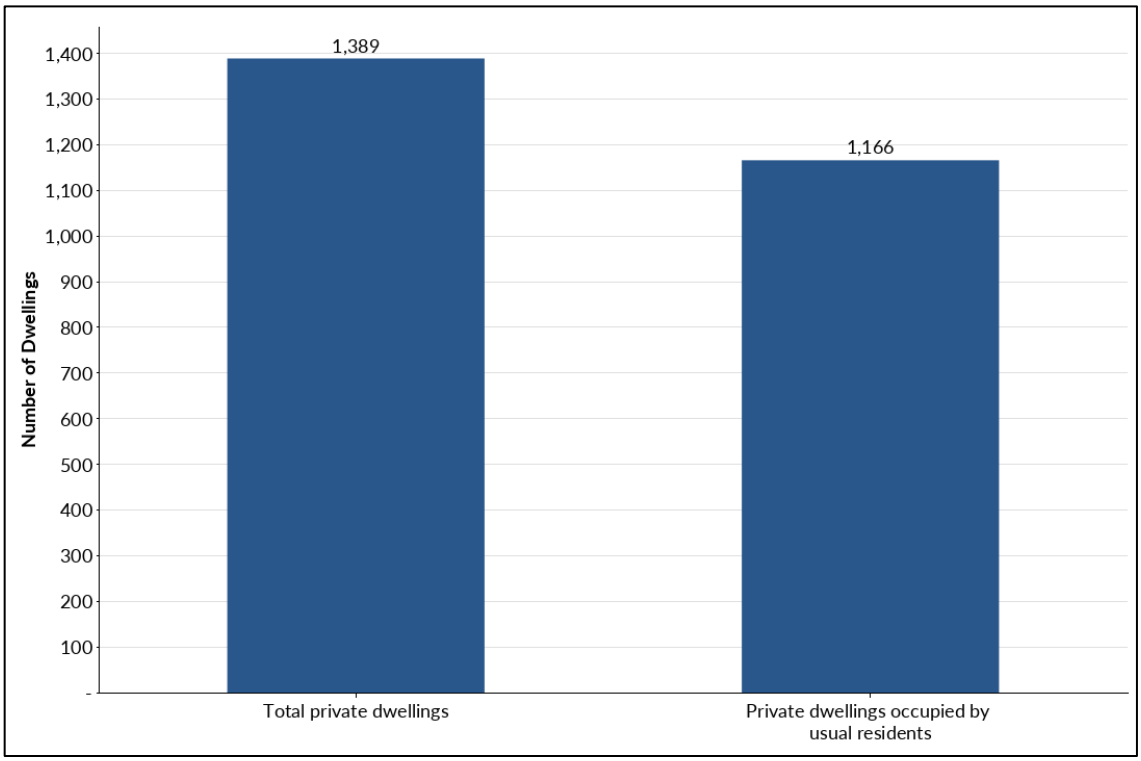
Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022a.

5.2.1.1.2 Other Local Study Area Communities

Figure 5-45 and **Table 5-35** present the total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the other Indigenous communities within the LSA in 2021. Private dwelling occupied by usual residents refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing (Statistics Canada, 2019). Information on private dwellings in other Indigenous communities within the LSA in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- There was a total of 1,389 private dwellings in the other Indigenous communities within the LSA in 2021;
- The majority of the private dwellings were located in Attawapiskat First Nation (29.1%) followed by Eabametoong First Nation (25.1%).
- Of the 1,389 private dwellings in the other Indigenous communities within the LSA, 1,166 (84%) were occupied by usual residents.
- Eabametoong First Nation had the fewest usual residents occupying private dwellings at 74%.
- The highest ratio of usual residents to private dwellings occurred in Weenusk First Nation at 93%.

Figure 5-45: Total Private Dwellings and Occupied Private Dwellings in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-35: Total Private Dwellings and Occupied Private Dwellings in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Dwelling	Community	Count	Distribution
Total private dwellings	Marten Falls First Nation	85	6.1%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	113	8.1%
	Neskantaga First Nation	89	6.4%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	252	18.1%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	349	25.1%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	404	29.1%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	97	7.0%
	Total	**1,389**	**100%**
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	Marten Falls First Nation	69	5.9%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	87	7.5%
	Neskantaga First Nation	75	6.4%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	228	19.6%

Dwelling	Community	Count	Distribution
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	258	22.1%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	359	30.8%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	90	7.7%
	Total	**1,166**	**100%**

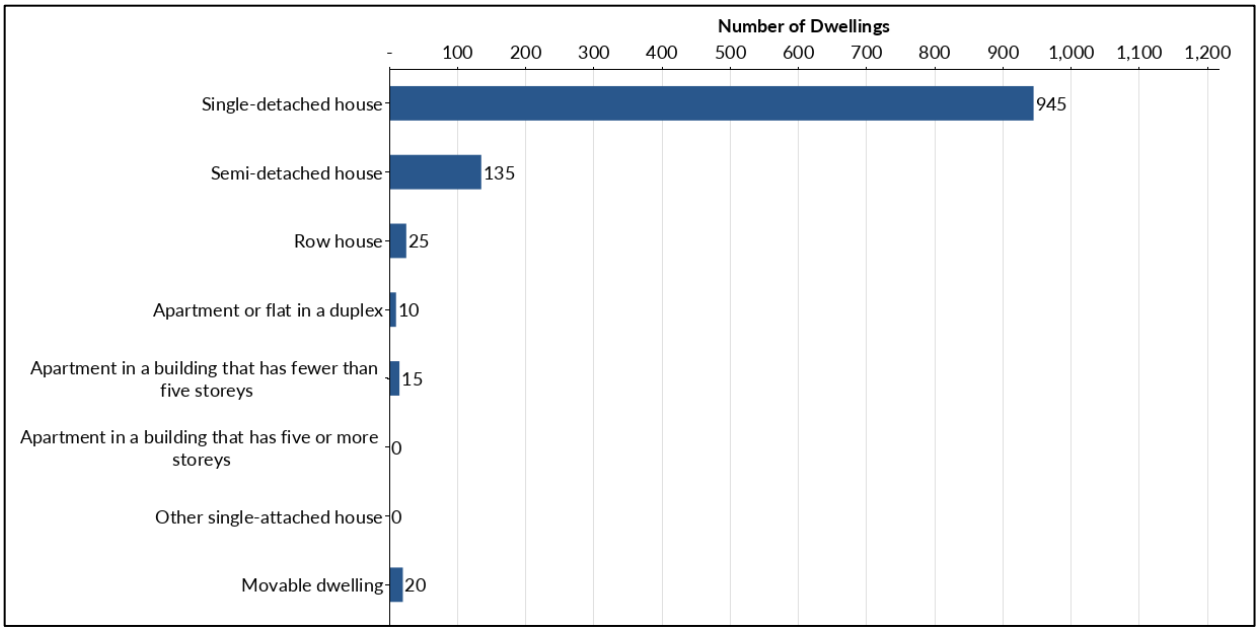
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-46 and **Table 5-36** present the total occupied dwellings for the other Indigenous communities in the LSA by structure type in 2021. Structure type of occupied dwellings in the other Indigenous communities within the LSA in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of dwellings were classified as single-detached at 82.2% of total dwellings;
- Following single-detached homes, the second most common structure for dwellings is semi-detached at 11.7%; and
- The remaining structural types constitutes of 6.1% of the dwellings.

Figure 5-46: Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Structural Type in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-36: Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Structural Type in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Structural Type	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	Single-detached house	260	73.2%
	Semi-detached house	65	18.3%
	Row house	10	2.8%
	Apartment or flat in a duplex	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	0	0.0%
	Other single-attached house	0	0.0%
	Moveable dwelling	20	5.6%
	Total	**355**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Single-detached house	230	92.0%
	Semi-detached house	15	6.0%
	Row house	5	2.0%
	Apartment or flat in a duplex	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	0	0.0%
	Other single-attached house	0	0.0%
	Moveable dwelling	0	0.0%
	Total	**250**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Single-detached house	180	78.3%
	Semi-detached house	45	19.6%
	Row house	5	2.2%
	Apartment or flat in a duplex	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	0	0.0%
	Other single-attached house	0	0.0%
	Moveable dwelling	0	0.0%
	Total	**230**	**100%**
Marten Falls First Nation	Single-detached house	55	78.6%
	Semi-detached house	0	0.0%
	Row house	0	0.0%
	Apartment or flat in a duplex	10	14.3%
	Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	5	7.1%
	Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	0	0.0%
	Other single-attached house	0	0.0%
	Moveable dwelling	0	0.0%
	Total	**70**	**100%**

Community	Structural Type	Count	Distribution
Neskantaga First Nation	Single-detached house	70	93.3%
	Semi-detached house	0	0.0%
	Row house	0	0.0%
	Apartment or flat in a duplex	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	5	6.7%
	Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	0	0.0%
	Other single-attached house	0	0.0%
	Moveable dwelling	0	0.0%
	Total	**75**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Single-detached house	75	88.2%
	Semi-detached house	5	5.9%
	Row house	5	5.9%
	Apartment or flat in a duplex	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	0	0.0%
	Other single-attached house	0	0.0%
	Moveable dwelling	0	0.0%
	Total	**85**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	Single-detached house	75	88.2%
	Semi-detached house	5	5.9%
	Row house	0	0.0%
	Apartment or flat in a duplex	0	0.0%
	Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	5	5.9%
	Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	0	0.0%
	Other single-attached house	0	0.0%
	Moveable dwelling	0	0.0%
	Total	**85**	**100%**

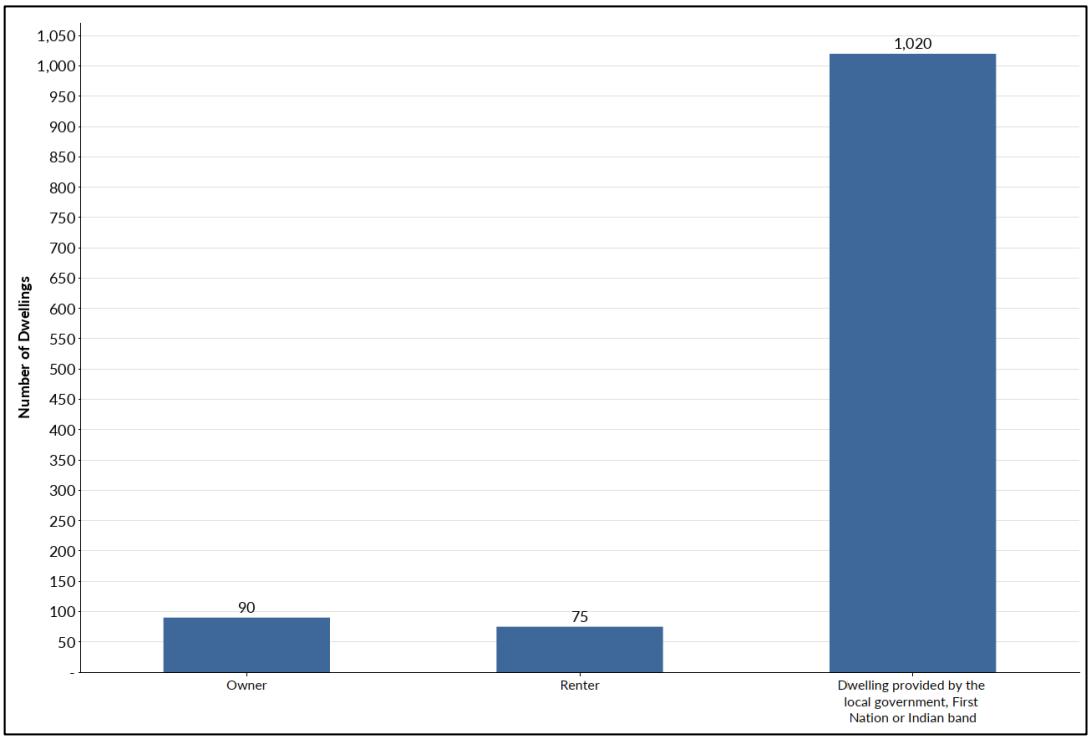
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-47 and **Table 5-37** present the private dwellings by tenure (owned, rented, or government/band housing) for the other Indigenous communities in the LSA in 2021. Tenure of dwellings in the other Indigenous communities within the LSA in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of the private dwellings in the LSA are considered government or band housing, accounting for 86.1% of dwellings, this is consistent across all the LSA Indigenous communities ranging from 60% of dwellings to 100% of dwellings;
- Attawapiskat First Nation has the highest concentration of owner-occupied dwellings with 16.7%; and
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation and Nibinamik First Nation both have 100% government/band owned dwellings.

Figure 5-47: Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-37: Private Occupied Dwellings by Tenure in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Tenure	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	Owner	60	16.7%
	Renter	25	6.9%
	Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	275	76.4%
	Total	**360**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Owner	10	3.7%
	Renter	10	3.7%
	Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	250	92.6%
	Total	**270**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Owner	-	0.0%
	Renter	-	0.0%
	Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	225	100.0%
	Total	**225**	**100%**

Community	Tenure	Count	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	Owner	-	0.0%
	Renter	10	14.3%
	Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	60	85.7%
	Total	**70**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	Owner	10	13.3%
	Renter	-	0.0%
	Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	65	86.7%
	Total	**75**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Owner	-	0.0%
	Renter	-	0.0%
	Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	85	100.0%
	Total	**85**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	Owner	10	10.0%
	Renter	30	30.0%
	Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	60	60.0%
	Total	**100**	**100%**
Total	Owner	90	7.6%
	Renter	75	6.3%
	Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	1,020	86.1%
	Total	**1,185**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.2.1.2 Household Characteristics

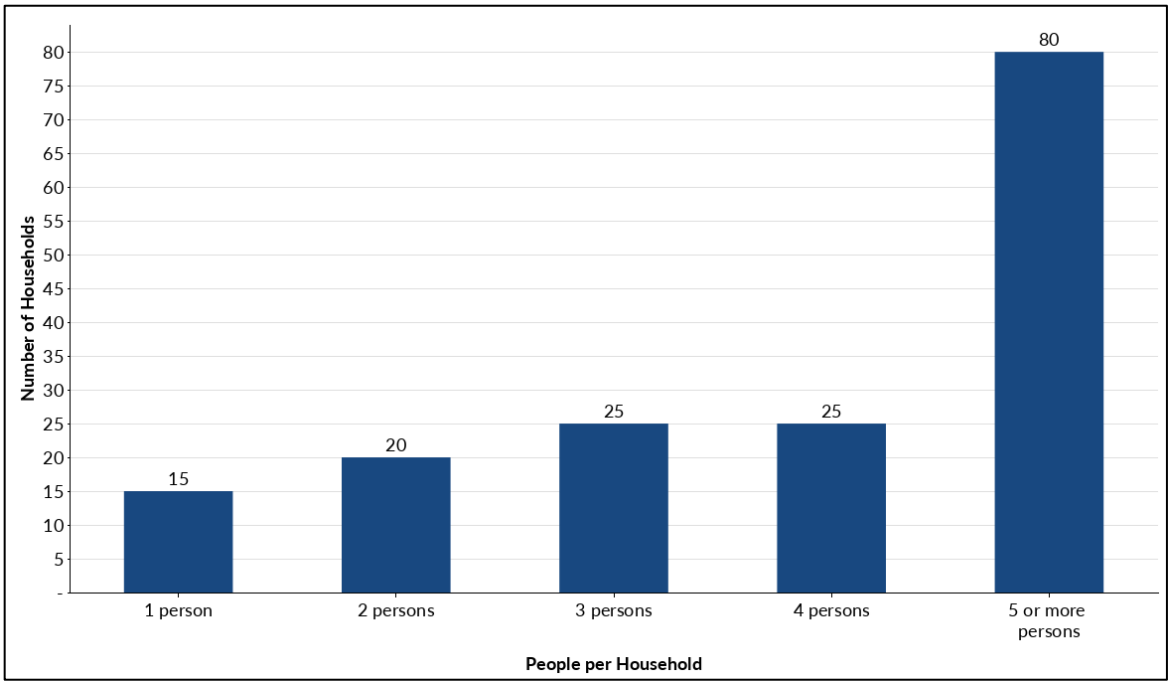
The following subsections describe characteristics of households (i.e., occupied private dwellings) for Webequie First Nation and other Indigenous communities and groups within the LSA.

5.2.1.2.1 Webequie First Nation

Figure 5-48 and **Table 5-38** present the number of households by the household size (i.e., the number of people per household) in Webequie for 2021and this is summarized below:

- Nearly half of households were occupied by 5 or more persons at 48.5%; and
- The least number of households were occupied by 1 person at 9.1%.

Figure 5-48: Number of Households by Household Size in Webequie (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-38: Number of Households by Household Size in Webequie (2021)

Household Size	Count	Distribution
1 person	15	9.1%
2 persons	20	12.1%
3 persons	25	15.2%
4 persons	25	15.2%
5 persons or more	80	48.5%
Total	**165**	**100%**

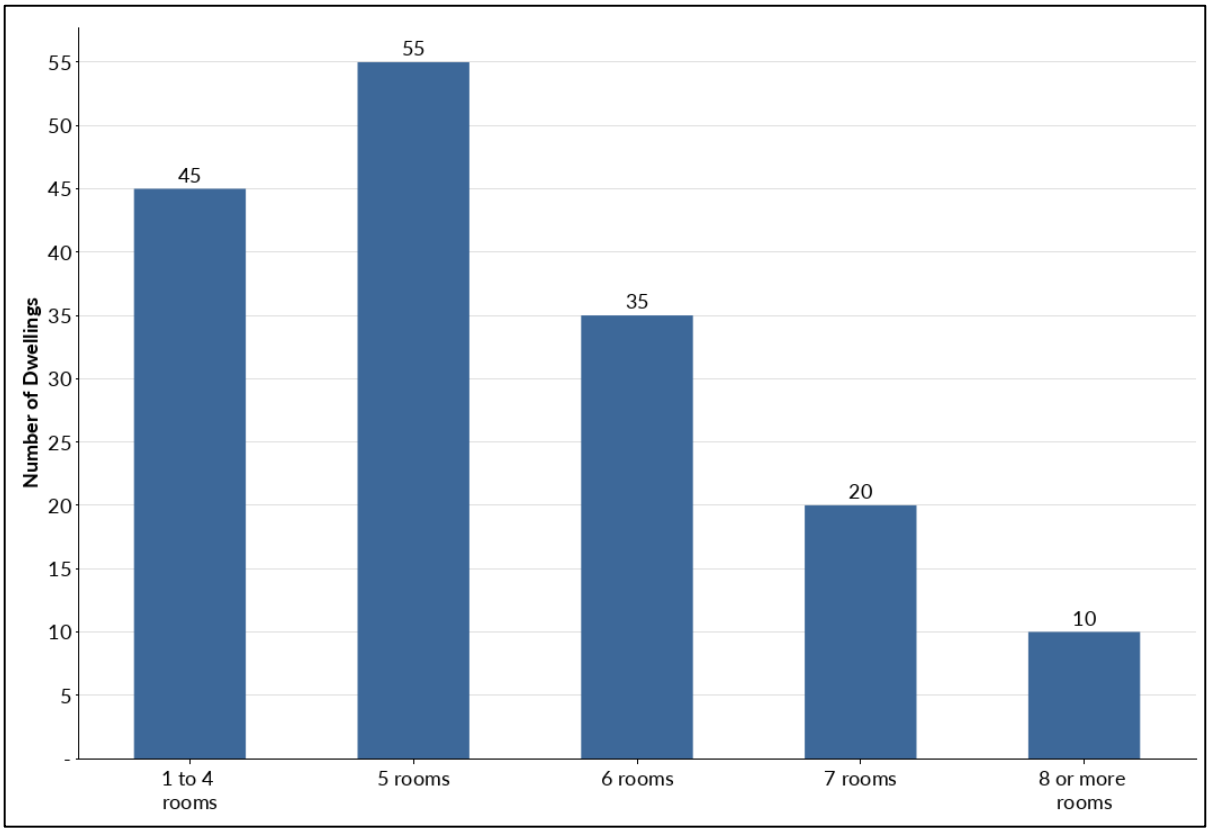
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-49 and **Table 5-39** present the number of rooms per household for Webequie in 2021. The number of rooms per household in Webequie in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of households in Webequie consist of 5 rooms at 33.3% followed by 1 to 4 rooms at 27.3%; and
- The least number of households are comprised of 8 or more rooms at 6.1%.

Figure 5-49: Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household in Webequie (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-39: Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household in Webequie (2021)

Rooms	Count	Distribution
1 to 4 rooms	45	27.3%
5 rooms	55	33.3%
6 rooms	35	21.2%
7 rooms	20	12.1%
8 or more rooms	10	6.1%
Total	**165**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

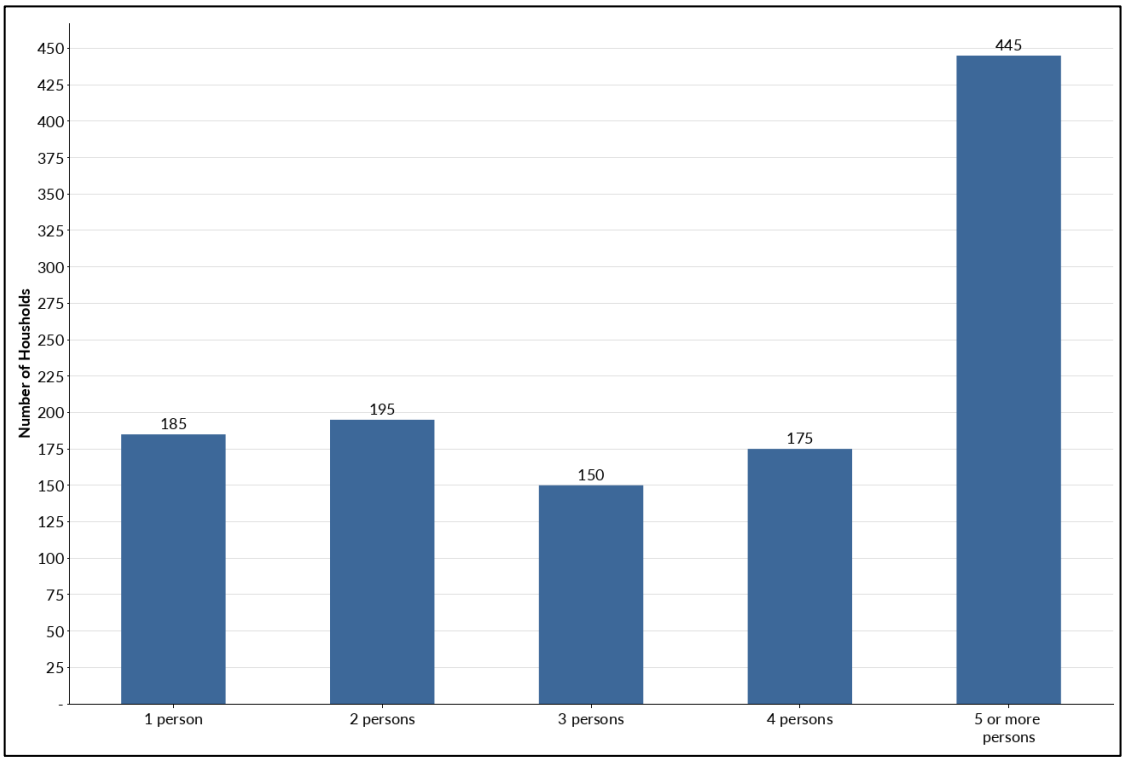
Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.2.1.2.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Figure 5-50 and **Table 5-40** present the total number of households by the household size (i.e., the number of people per household) in the other Indigenous communities within the LSA in 2021:

- The majority of households are occupied by 5 or more persons (38.7%) in other communities in the LSA;
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation has the highest concentration of households occupied by 5 or more persons with 47.8% of households; and
- Neskantaga First Nation has the highest concentration of households occupied by 1 person with 26.7% of households.

Figure 5-50: Total Number of Households by Household Size in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-40: Number of Households by Household Size in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Household Size	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	1 person	40	11.1%
	2 persons	60	16.7%
	3 persons	45	12.5%
	4 persons	60	16.7%
	5 or more persons	155	43.1%
	Total	**360**	**100%**

Community	Household Size	Count	Distribution
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	1 person	40	15.4%
	2 persons	45	17.3%
	3 persons	35	13.5%
	4 persons	45	17.3%
	5 or more persons	95	36.5%
	Total	**260**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1 person	40	17.4%
	2 persons	20	8.7%
	3 persons	30	13.0%
	4 persons	30	13.0%
	5 or more persons	110	47.8%
	Total	**230**	**100%**
Marten Falls First Nation	1 person	15	25.0%
	2 persons	10	16.7%
	3 persons	10	16.7%
	4 persons	5	8.3%
	5 or more persons	20	33.3%
	Total	**60**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	1 person	20	26.7%
	2 persons	15	20.0%
	3 persons	10	13.3%
	4 persons	10	13.3%
	5 or more persons	20	26.7%
	Total	**75**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	1 person	10	12.5%
	2 persons	5	6.3%
	3 persons	15	18.8%
	4 persons	20	25.0%
	5 or more persons	30	37.5%
	Total	**80**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	1 person	20	23.5%
	2 persons	40	47.1%
	3 persons	5	5.9%
	4 persons	5	5.9%
	5 or more persons	15	17.6%
	Total	**85**	**100%**

Community	Household Size	Count	Distribution
Total	1 person	185	16.1%
	2 persons	195	17.0%
	3 persons	150	13.0%
	4 persons	175	15.2%
	5 or more persons	445	38.7%
	Total	**1,150**	**100%**

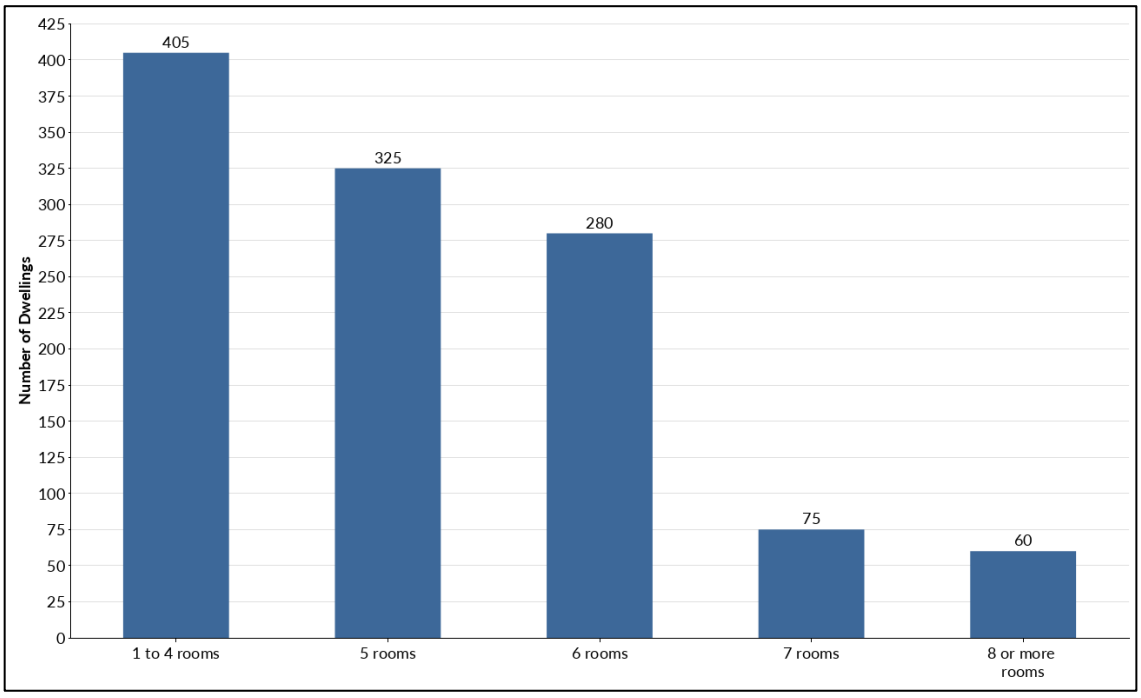
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-51 and **Table 5-41** present the number of rooms per household in the other Indigenous communities in the LSA in 2021:

- The majority of private households consist of 1 to 4 rooms at 35.4% followed by 5 rooms at 28.4%;
- The least number of private households are comprised of 8 or more rooms at 5.2%;
- Neskantaga First Nation has the highest concentration of households with 8 or more rooms at 13.3%; and
- Weenusk First Nation has the highest concentration of households with 1 to 4 rooms at 63.2%.

Figure 5-51: Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-41: Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Rooms	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	1 to 4 rooms	120	34.8%
	5 rooms	75	21.7%
	6 rooms	105	30.4%
	7 rooms	25	7.2%
	8 or more rooms	20	5.8%
	Total	345	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	1 to 4 rooms	65	25.0%
	5 rooms	95	36.5%
	6 rooms	75	28.8%
	7 rooms	15	5.8%
	8 or more rooms	10	3.8%
	Total	**260**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1 to 4 rooms	65	28.3%
	5 rooms	65	28.3%
	6 rooms	65	28.3%
	7 rooms	15	6.5%
	8 or more rooms	20	8.7%
	Total	**230**	**100%**
Marten Falls First Nation	1 to 4 rooms	25	41.7%
	5 rooms	25	41.7%
	6 rooms	10	16.7%
	7 rooms	-	0.0%
	8 or more rooms	-	0.0%
	Total	**60**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	1 to 4 rooms	25	33.3%
	5 rooms	15	20.0%
	6 rooms	15	20.0%
	7 rooms	10	13.3%
	8 or more rooms	10	13.3%
	Total	**75**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	1 to 4 rooms	45	56.3%
	5 rooms	25	31.3%
	6 rooms	-	0.0%
	7 rooms	10	12.5%
	8 or more rooms	-	0.0%
	Total	**80**	**100%**

Community	Rooms	Count	Distribution
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	1 to 4 rooms	60	63.2%
	5 rooms	25	26.3%
	6 rooms	10	10.5%
	7 rooms	-	0.0%
	8 or more rooms	-	0.0%
	Total	**95**	**100%**
Total	1 to 4 rooms	405	35.4%
	5 rooms	325	28.4%
	6 rooms	280	24.5%
	7 rooms	75	6.6%
	8 or more rooms	60	5.2%
	Total	**1,145**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.2.1.3 Housing Conditions

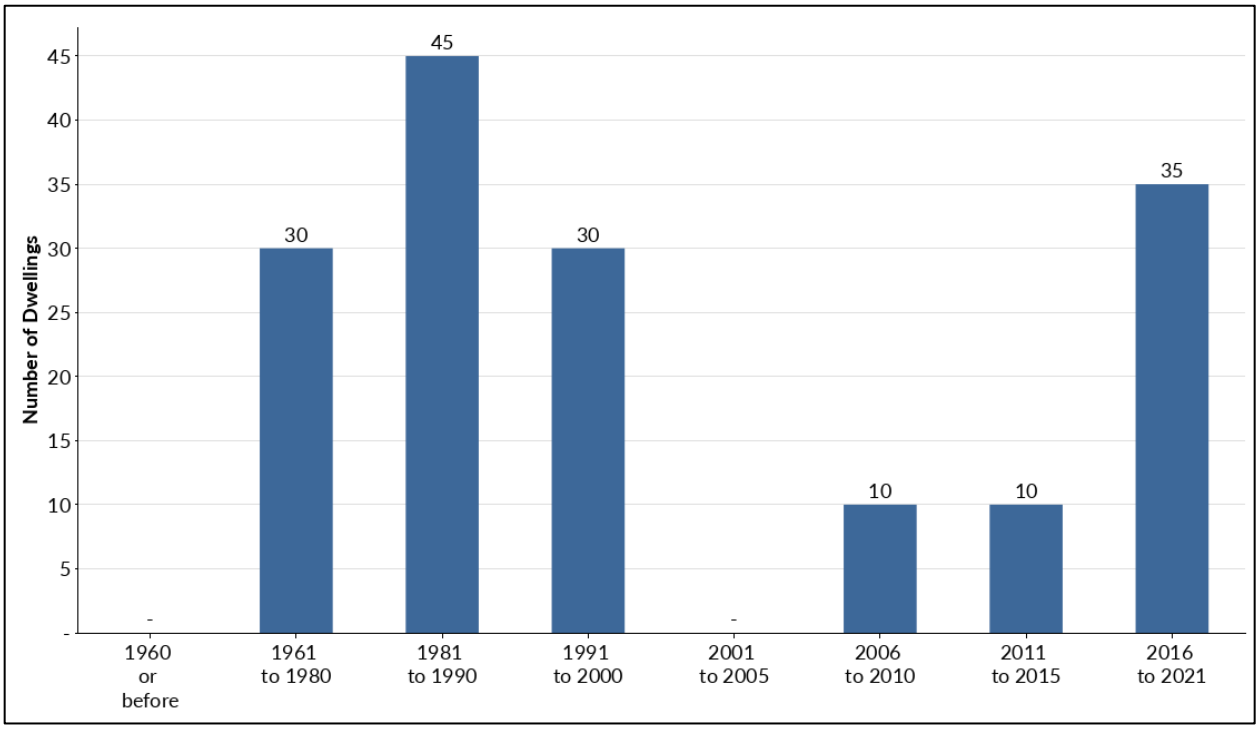
The following subsections describe housing conditions including the numbers of occupied private dwellings built during various periods of construction from 1960 up to 2021, as well as suitability and dwelling condition for Webequie First Nation and other Indigenous communities and groups within the LSA.

5.2.1.3.1 Webequie First Nation

Figure 5-52 and **Table 5-42** present the total number of occupied private dwellings by period of construction from 1960 up to 2021 in Webequie First Nation as follows:

- Dwellings constructed during the period from 1981 to 1990 is the largest group with 28.1% of private dwellings constructed during this period;
- During the periods of 1960 or before and 2001 to 2005 no private dwellings were reported being constructed;
- 65.6% of the occupied private dwellings in Webequie were constructed during or prior to 2000; and
- Over the last two decades, 55 dwellings were constructed which comprises less than 34.4% of the occupied housing stock.

Figure 5-52: Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction in Webequie from 1960 to 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-42: Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction in Webequie from 1960 to 2021

Construction Period	Count	Distribution
1960 or before	0	0%
1961 to 1980	30	18.8%
1981 to 1990	45	28.1%
1991 to 2000	30	18.8%
2001 to 2005	0	0%
2006 to 2010	10	6.3%
2011 to 2015	10	6.3%
2016 to 2021	35	21.9%
Total	**160**	**100%**

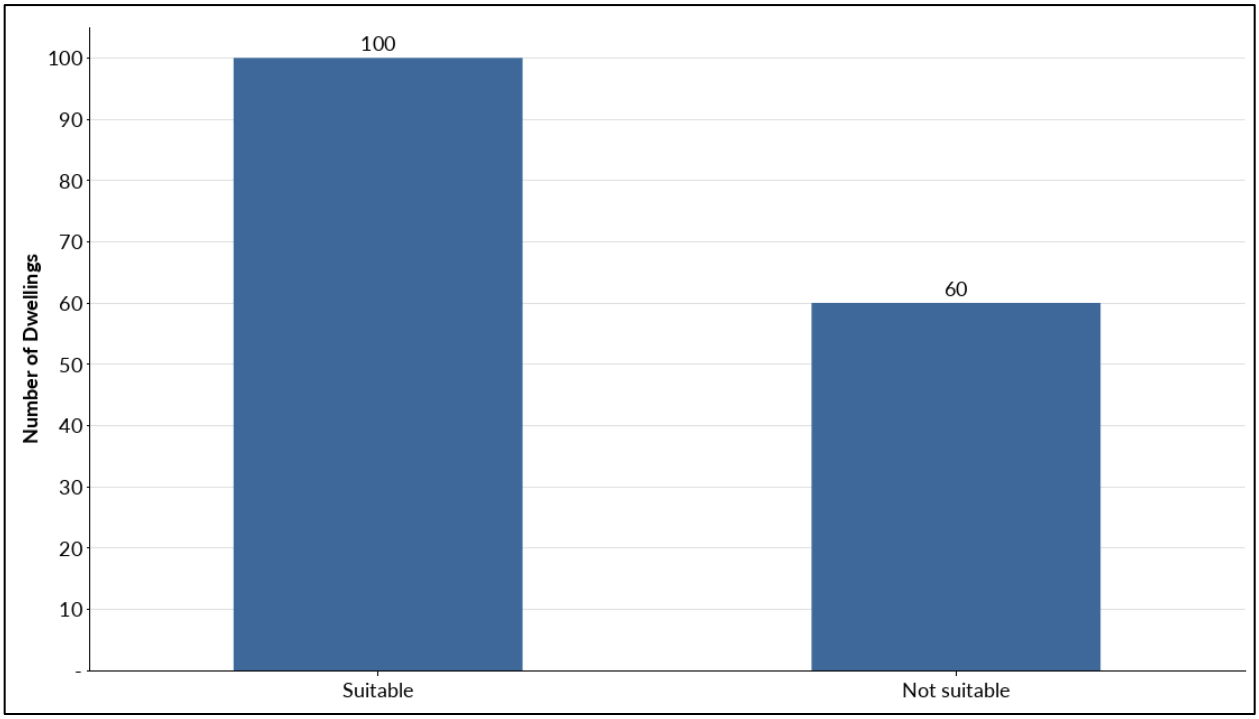
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-53 and **Table 5-43** present the suitability of occupied private dwellings in Webequie First Nation for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “suitable” or “unsuitable”. Housing suitability assesses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members according to the National Occupancy Standard (Statistics Canada, 2017b). The suitability of occupied private dwellings in Webequie First Nation for 2021 is summarized below:

- In 2021, 37.7% of the occupied private dwellings in Webequie were categorized as unsuitable.

Figure 5-53: Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability in Webequie in 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-43: Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability in Webequie in 2021

Suitability	Count	Distribution
Suitable	100	62.5%
Not suitable	60	37.5%
Total	**160**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

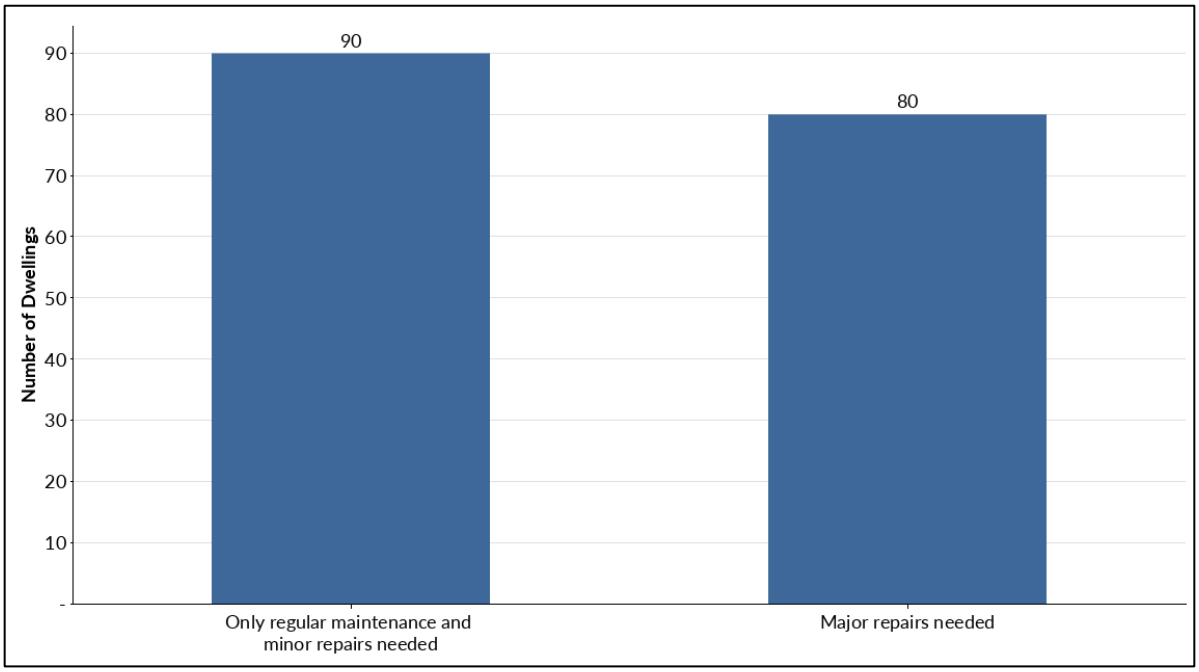
Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-54 and **Table 5-44** present the conditions of the private dwellings in Webequie for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed” or “major repairs needed”. Dwelling condition refers to whether the dwelling needs repairs. This does not desired remodelling or additions.

The 'regular maintenance needed' category includes dwellings where only regular maintenance such as painting or furnace cleaning is required. The 'minor repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing only minor repairs such as dwellings with missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles; or defective steps, railing or siding. The 'major repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings (Statistics Canada, 2021a). The conditions of the private dwellings in Webequie for 2021 is summarized below:

- In 2021, 47.1% of the private dwellings in Webequie First Nation were categorized as requiring major repairs.

Figure 5-54: Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition in Webequie (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 5-44: Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition in Webequie (2021)

Dwelling Condition	Count	Distribution
Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	90	52.9%
Major repairs needed	80	47.1%
Total	**170**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

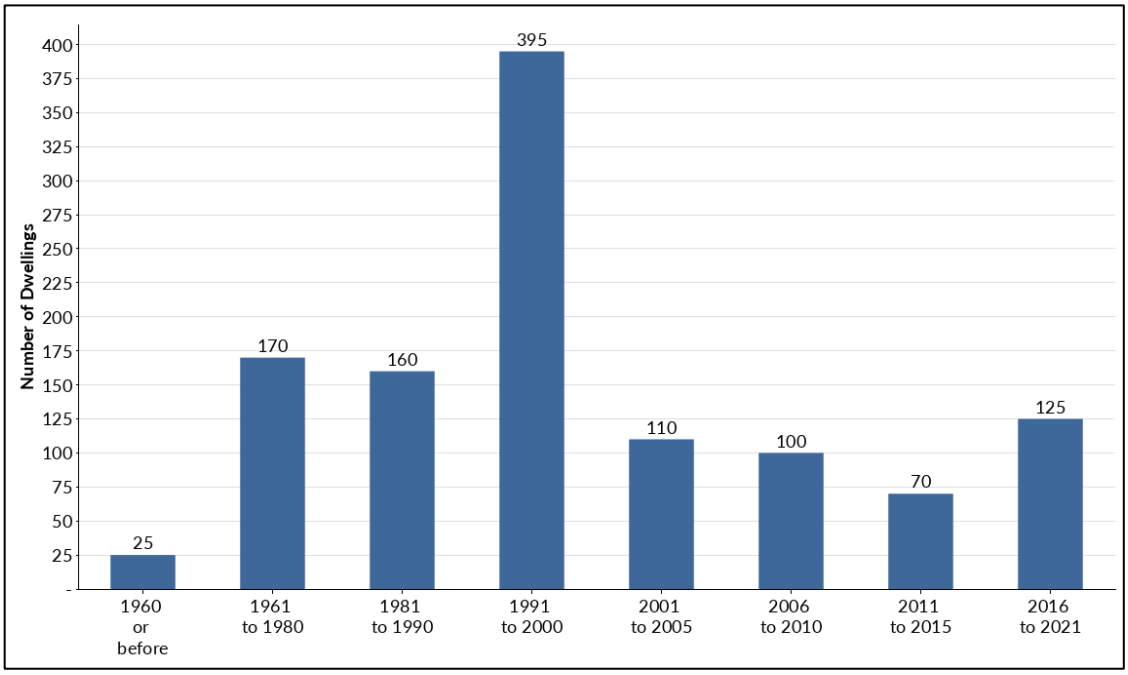
Webequie First Nation's Housing Department in the Band Office works on renovations on existing housing units, planning and construction of new housing units, reviewing of housing loans, annual maintenance and repairs of the community housing, maintenance of housing database, and reviews and provides recommendations for housing policy (Northwest Health Line, 2023).

5.2.1.3.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Figure 5-55 and **Table 5-45** present the total occupied private dwellings by period of construction in other Indigenous communities in the LSA from 1960 to 2021, and is summarized below:

- Dwellings constructed during the period from 1991 to 2000 is the largest group with 34.2% of total private dwellings being built during this period;
- Dwellings constructed during the period from 2011 to 2015 is the smallest group with 6.1% of total private dwellings being built during this period;
- Marten Falls First Nation has the highest concentration of dwellings built between 2016 to 2021; and
- Over the last two decades, 405 dwellings were constructed which comprises 35% of the occupied housing stock.

Figure 5-55: Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (1960 to 2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-45: Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (1960 to 2021)

Community	Construction Period	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	1960 or before	10	2.8%
	1961 to 1980	50	13.9%
	1981 to 1990	35	9.7%
	1991 to 2000	110	30.6%
	2001 to 2005	15	4.2%
	2006 to 2010	50	13.9%

Community	Construction Period	Count	Distribution
	2011 to 2015	45	12.5%
	2016 to 2021	45	12.5%
	Total	**360**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	1960 or before	-	0.0%
	1961 to 1980	55	22.0%
	1981 to 1990	30	12.0%
	1991 to 2000	85	34.0%
	2001 to 2005	25	10.0%
	2006 to 2010	20	8.0%
	2011 to 2015	-	0.0%
	2016 to 2021	35	14.0%
	Total	**250**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1960 or before	15	6.4%
	1961 to 1980	25	10.6%
	1981 to 1990	40	17.0%
	1991 to 2000	70	29.8%
	2001 to 2005	25	10.6%
	2006 to 2010	20	8.5%
	2011 to 2015	15	6.4%
	2016 to 2021	25	10.6%
	Total	**235**	**100%**
Marten Falls First Nation	1960 or before	-	0.0%
	1961 to 1980	-	0.0%
	1981 to 1990	-	0.0%
	1991 to 2000	35	63.6%
	2001 to 2005	10	18.2%
	2006 to 2010	-	0.0%
	2011 to 2015	-	0.0%
	2016 to 2021	10	18.2%
	Total	**55**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	1960 or before	-	0.0%
	1961 to 1980	10	13.3%
	1981 to 1990	10	13.3%
	1991 to 2000	45	60.0%
	2001 to 2005	10	13.3%
	2006 to 2010	-	0.0%

Community	Construction Period	Count	Distribution
	2011 to 2015	-	0.0%
	2016 to 2021	-	0.0%
	Total	**75**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	1960 or before	-	0.0%
	1961 to 1980	20	25.0%
	1981 to 1990	15	18.8%
	1991 to 2000	20	25.0%
	2001 to 2005	15	18.8%
	2006 to 2010	-	0.0%
	2011 to 2015	-	0.0%
	2016 to 2021	10	12.5%
	Total	**80**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	1960 or before	-	0.0%
	1961 to 1980	10	10.0%
	1981 to 1990	30	30.0%
	1991 to 2000	30	30.0%
	2001 to 2005	10	10.0%
	2006 to 2010	10	10.0%
	2011 to 2015	10	10.0%
	2016 to 2021	-	0.0%
	Total	**100**	**100%**
Total	1960 or before	25	2.2%
	1961 to 1980	170	14.7%
	1981 to 1990	160	13.9%
	1991 to 2000	395	34.2%
	2001 to 2005	110	9.5%
	2006 to 2010	100	8.7%
	2011 to 2015	70	6.1%
	2016 to 2021	125	10.8%
	Total	**1,155**	**100%**

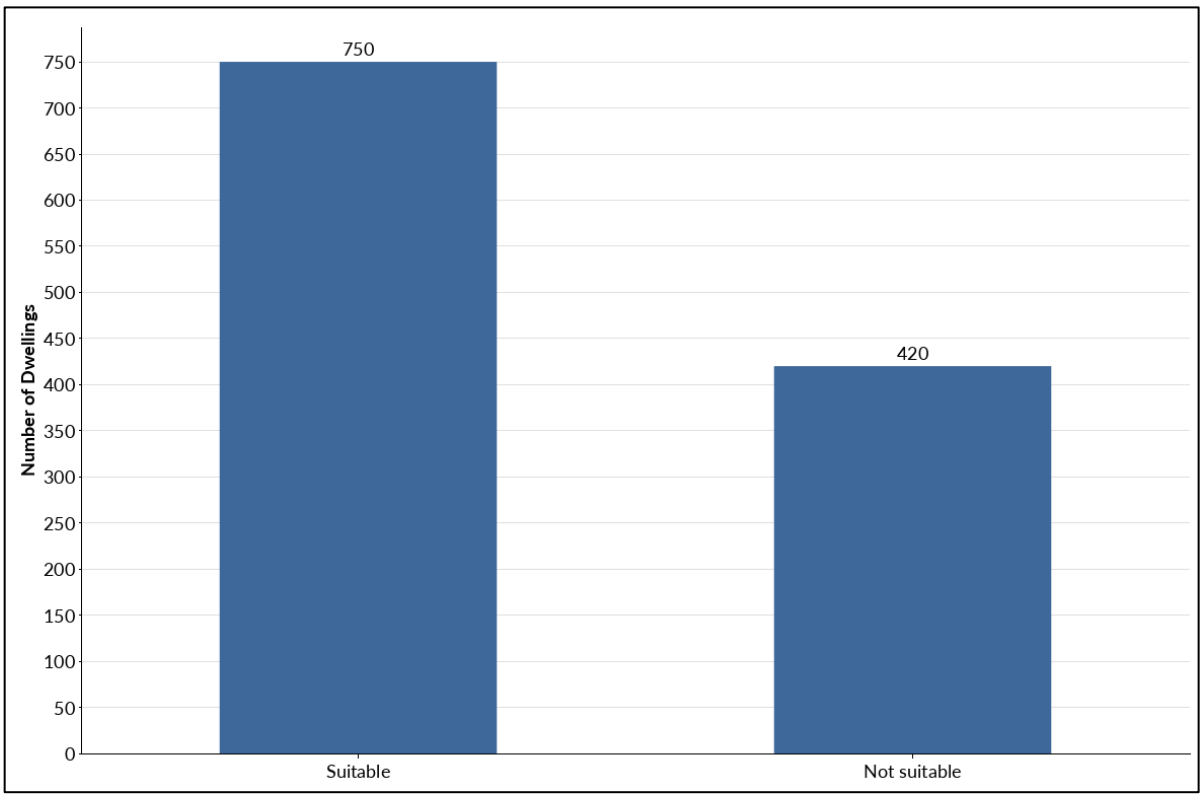
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-56 and **Table 5-46** present the suitability of the occupied private dwellings in the other LSA Indigenous communities for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “suitable” or “unsuitable”. Housing suitability asses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members (Statistics Canada, 2017b). In 2021, 35.9% of the occupied private dwellings in the LSA Indigenous communities were categorized as unsuitable. Nibinamik First Nation has the highest concentration of occupied private dwellings

categorized as unsuitable at 44.4%; and Weenusk First Nation has the smallest concentration of occupied private dwellings categorized as unsuitable at 22.2%.

Figure 5-56: Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-46: Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Suitability	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	Suitable	215	59.7%
	Not Suitable	145	40.3%
	Total	**360**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Suitable	175	68.6%
	Not Suitable	80	31.4%
	Total	**255**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Suitable	135	58.7%
	Not Suitable	95	41.3%
	Total	**230**	**100%**

Community	Suitability	Count	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	Suitable	50	71.4%
	Not Suitable	20	28.6%
	Total	**70**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	Suitable	55	73.3%
	Not Suitable	20	26.7%
	Total	**75**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Suitable	50	55.6%
	Not Suitable	40	44.4%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	Suitable	70	77.8%
	Not Suitable	20	22.2%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
Total	Suitable	750	64.1%
	Not Suitable	420	35.9%
	Total	**1,170**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

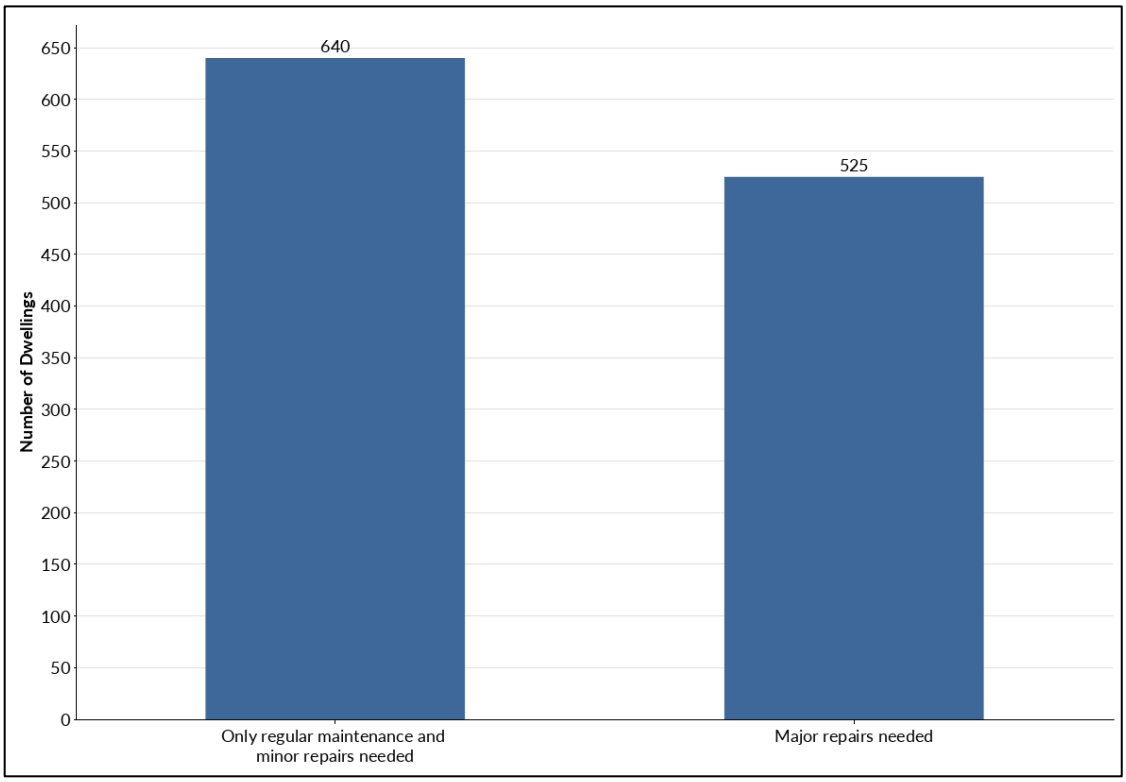
Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 5-57 and **Table 5-47** present the conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the other LSA Indigenous communities for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed” or “major repairs needed”. Dwelling condition refers to whether the dwelling is in need of repairs. This does not include desirable remodelling or additions.

The 'regular maintenance needed' category includes dwellings where only regular maintenance such as painting or furnace cleaning is required. The 'minor repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing only minor repairs such as dwellings with missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles; or defective steps, railing or siding. The 'major repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings (Statistics Canada, 2021a). The conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the other LSA Indigenous communities for 2021 is summarized below:

- In 2021, 45.1% of occupied private dwellings in the LSA Indigenous communities were categorized as requiring major repairs.
- Neskantaga First Nation has the highest concentration of occupied private dwellings categorized as requiring major repairs at 78.6%.
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation has the lowest concentration of occupied private dwellings categorized as requiring major repairs at 31.1%.

Figure 5-57: Total Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 5-47: Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Condition	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	245	68.1%
	Major repairs needed	115	31.9%
	Total	**360**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	100	39.2%
	Major repairs needed	155	60.8%
	Total	**255**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	155	68.9%
	Major repairs needed	70	31.1%
	Total	**225**	**100%**
Marten Falls First Nation	Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	30	42.9%
	Major repairs needed	40	57.1%
	Total	**70**	**100%**

Community	Condition	Count	Distribution
Neskantaga First Nation	Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	15	21.4%
	Major repairs needed	55	78.6%
	Total	**70**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	40	44.4%
	Major repairs needed	50	55.6%
	Total	**90**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	55	57.9%
	Major repairs needed	40	42.1%
	Total	**95**	**100%**
Total	Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	640	54.9%
	Major repairs needed	525	45.1%
	Total	**1,165**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

5.2.1.4 GBA+ Considerations

Understanding the existing state of housing in Webequie First Nation is essential for identifying which sub-populations are most at risk due to poor housing conditions and more vulnerable to additional housing-related stresses. Housing characteristics and conditions are presented briefly to help assess the potential effects the WSR Project could have on housing and the populations most vulnerable to these changes.

There are 171 total private dwellings in Webequie, 166 (97.1%) of which are occupied by usual residents[15]. Of the private dwellings in Webequie First Nation, 94.3% are government or band housing[16] (Statistics Canada, 2022a). Of the occupied dwellings in Webequie, 65.6% were constructed during or prior to 2000, with only 55 dwellings (34.4% of the occupied housing stock) being constructed in the community over the last 20 years. The majority of dwellings (84.8%) in the community are single-detached and the remainder are semi-detached. The majority (33.3%) of households in Webequie consist of five rooms, followed by one to four rooms (27.3%). As of 2021, 37.7% of occupied dwellings in Webequie were considered unsuitable[17] and 47.1% require major repairs[18], compared to the Ontario rates of 6.7% and 5.7%, respectively. Further, nearly half (48.5%) of Webequie households are occupied by more than five people, compared to the Ontario rate of 9.9%, making overcrowding a major issue in the community. Results from knowledge holder interviews and the Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey confirmed that overcrowding, poor conditions, and lack of availability are major housing concerns for the community.

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15 Private dwellings occupied by usual residents refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing (Statistics Canada, 2019b).

16 Government/band housing is a dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band (Randle & Thurston, 2022).

17 Housing suitability assesses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members according to the National Occupancy Standard (Statistics Canada, 2017).

18 The 'major repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings (Statistics Canada, 2021b).

Webequie First Nation members have expressed that every community member is affected by the lack of housing and overcrowding that is occurring (Webequie First Nation, 2014; SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Residents face many housing challenges, including having too few bedrooms for household members, safety concerns like mould and lack of fire alarms, and high costs of fuel to heat their homes (Webequie First Nation 2019b). The age and general state of disrepair of homes in the community as well as the limited housing stock can be linked, in part, to lack of funding, lack of local tradespersons to construct and repair homes, and the high costs associated with bringing materials to the community (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; Webequie First Nation, 2021).

There is an immediate need to repair existing homes and build new ones in the community, and, according to a knowledge holder, there has not been enough housing in the community for at least 15 years (Webequie First Nation, 2021; SNC-Lavalin, 2023). The participant estimated that, of the 170 dwellings in the community, 100 need repairs and 50 of which need major repairs, including repairs for defective plumbing, electrical wiring, and structural problems (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Another knowledge holder estimated that mould is an issue in 80% of homes, further stating that the First Nation needs over 100 housing units.

Individuals who are unhoused or precariously housed, such as those who are “couch-surfing”, are vulnerable to the state of housing in Webequie. Knowledge holders expressed concerns for families who are or become homeless (e.g., their house burned down) in the community, sharing that some residents live in the local hotel and others began living in the COVID-19 isolation units provided to the community during the pandemic (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

Short term accommodations are limited in Webequie. The community has the Webequie Motel for lodging convenience and temporary accommodation, which has five double rooms and one suite (Webequie First Nation, 2023e).

Lack of availability of housing and accommodations in Webequie also affects the ability for important services to be provided in the community, such as teachers and health care providers, and the ability of off-reserve members to return home (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Several knowledge holders shared that the vast majority of off-reserve members, many of whom live in Thunder Bay, want to return home but that they cannot because there is nowhere for them to live (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

The poor state of housing in Webequie impacts the physical and mental well-being of residents, particularly youth, who do not receive enough privacy when sharing rooms with multiple generations. A knowledge holder shared that this can be difficult for adolescents, particularly those reaching the age of 12, who begin wanting their own space and privacy but cannot have it, causing them hardship. Members shared they felt overcrowding provokes substance use and other negative behaviours, such as vandalism, as youth are looking to escape the reality of their overcrowded homes (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

The WSR Project has the potential to impact housing and accommodations in Webequie First Nation through an increase in demand. The lack of available housing the community creates a barrier to off-reserve Webequie members returning home for employment opportunities, while an increase in off-reserve Webequie members returning to the community could further exacerbate the overcrowding issues the community already faces. Further, Project-related activities have the potential to bring non-residents into the community on visits who require short term accommodations, which are already limited in Webequie and often used by Webequie residents themselves. Overcrowding and lack of housing availability is a challenge faced by many in Webequie, but it can disproportionately impact subpopulations more vulnerable to changes in housing, including individuals who are unhoused or precariously housed and youth. However, presence of the Project, if planned for appropriately, also has the potential to increase the availability of housing for Webequie residents and lower the costs associated with transporting materials to the community.

Lack of available housing affects the ability of off-reserve members of Webequie First Nation to return home to benefit from direct and indirect opportunities associated with the Project. One’s ability to live in their home community can affect their physical and mental well-being; this is particularly the case for Indigenous peoples, whose concept of home

encompasses more than the physical and social environment in which they live (Bowra & Mashford-Pringle, 2021). The people, land, animals, ancestors, stories, language, and traditions of one's birthplace can be conceived as 'home' and have great impacts on the health and well-being of First Nations peoples (Bowra & Mashford-Pringle, 2021). Being around one's culture provides a sense of identity and belonging, both of which are critical elements of good health and well-being (Oster et al., 2014). It is important for Webequie members to be able to return home should they wish to do so. Participants of knowledge holder interviews shared that moving off-reserve can be a major culture shock to many members and cause serious hardship (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

An influx of off-reserve Webequie members to the community for employment has the ability to contribute to overcrowding (Myette & Riva, 2021). Not only does this have the potential to exacerbate the challenges faced by those who are already homeless or precariously housed by increasing competition for housing, but Webequie members also fear this could result in more individuals being pushed onto the streets (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). As described above, youth is particularly vulnerable to overcrowding.

The limited short-term accommodations in Webequie mean that any incoming visitors related to the Project could place additional pressures on the community. As noted above, some Webequie residents rely on the local motel for housing. An increase in needs for the motel could cause further issues for those Webequie members who are unhoused or precariously housed. This also presents an economic growth opportunity for the community for creation of temporary hotels or rental swellings.

Many Webequie members have expressed hopefulness toward the ability of the WSR Project to improve the state of housing in their community (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; 2022a).

5.2.2 Regional Study Area

The RSA is comprised of 3 census divisions: Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District. Within these divisions there are 114 census sub-divisions which include 72 Indigenous communities. The districts are inclusive of the 22 RSA Indigenous communities with the majority existing within the Kenora District.

The Kenora District has 32,914 dwellings, 75% of which are occupied by usual residents. The Kenora District has the highest number of dwellings occupied by non usual residents in the RSA. This is likely due to the high number of cottagers within the region. The majority of the dwellings in the district are owned however the Kenora District has the largest percentage of government or band housing with just over 20% of occupied dwellings falling within this category. Over 60% of dwellings are occupied by one to two persons. Most of the dwellings in the Kenora District were constructed over 20 years ago, 50% of which were built prior to 1980. Most occupied dwellings are considered suitable for the household size and less than 20% require major repairs.

The Thunder Bay District has 72,510 dwellings, 89% of which are occupied by usual residents. Across the District, approximately 75% of homes are owned, and the remainder are rented. Under 2% of dwellings are considered government or band housing. Over 60% of the dwellings are occupied by one to two persons and 30% have eight or more rooms. Less than 10% of dwellings have been constructed over the past two decades. Nearly all dwellings are considered suitable based on household size and less than 10% are in need of major repairs.

The Cochrane District has 37,667 dwellings, 90% of which are occupied by usual residents. Most dwellings are owned at nearly 70% with just under 2% falling withing government or band housing. Nearly 70% of dwellings are occupied by one to two persons. Less than 10% of the housing stock was constructed over the past 20 years however nearly all are considered suitable and less than 10% require major repairs.

The majority of dwellings in the RSA are occupied by the usual residents. The Kenora District has the highest number of dwellings occupied by non-usual residents, likely due to a high number of cottages in the region. Over 60% of

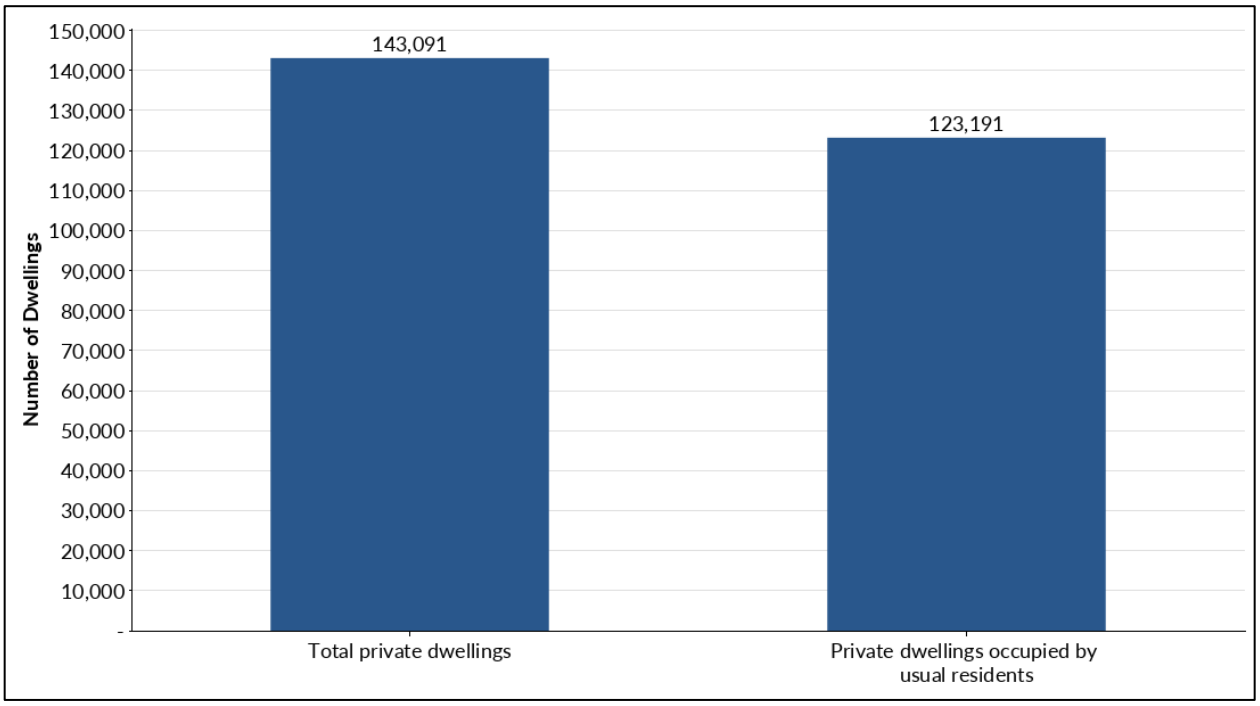
dwellings in each district comprising the RSA are occupied by one to two people, indicating a trend towards smaller household sizes. A sizable proportion of the dwellings across the RSA were built over 20 years ago. There is a limited number of dwellings constructed in the past two decades. The majority of dwellings across the RSA are considered suitable for the size of the households, and less than 20% require major repairs. The majority of dwellings are owned within the RSA, with the rate of government being relatively low.

5.2.2.1 Housing Characteristics

Figure 5-58 presents the total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the RSA for 2021. Private dwelling occupied by usual residents refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing (Statistics Canada, 2019). The total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the RSA for 2021 is summarized below:

- There are 143,091 total private dwellings in the RSA as of 2021; and
- Of the 143,091 private dwellings, 123,191 (86.1%) are occupied by usual residents.

Figure 5-58: Total Private Dwellings and Occupied Private Dwellings in Regional Study Area, 2021

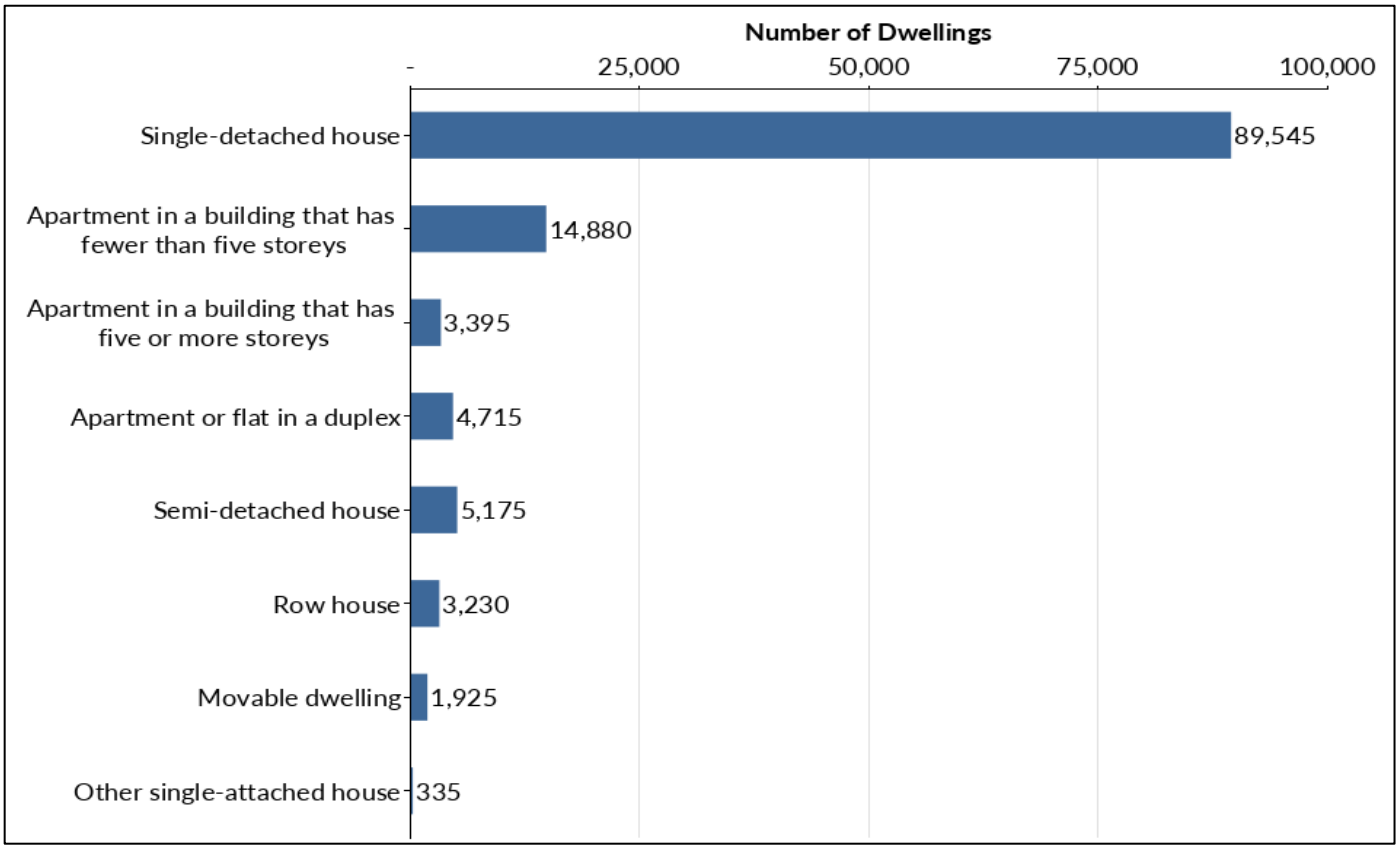


Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-59 and **Table 5-48** present the total occupied dwellings in the RSA by structure type in 2021. Apartments include the following categories: apartments in a building that has less than five storeys, apartment or flat in a duplex, and apartments in a building that has five or more storeys. The total occupied dwellings in the RSA by structure type in 2021 is summarized below:

- The majority of dwellings are classified as single-detached home at 72.7%;
- Apartments make up 19.7% of occupied dwellings; and
- The smallest category of occupied dwellings is other single-attached houses with 0.3%.

Figure 5-59: Occupied Private Dwellings by Structure Type in Regional Study Area (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-48: Occupied Private Dwellings by Structure Type in Regional Study Area (2021)

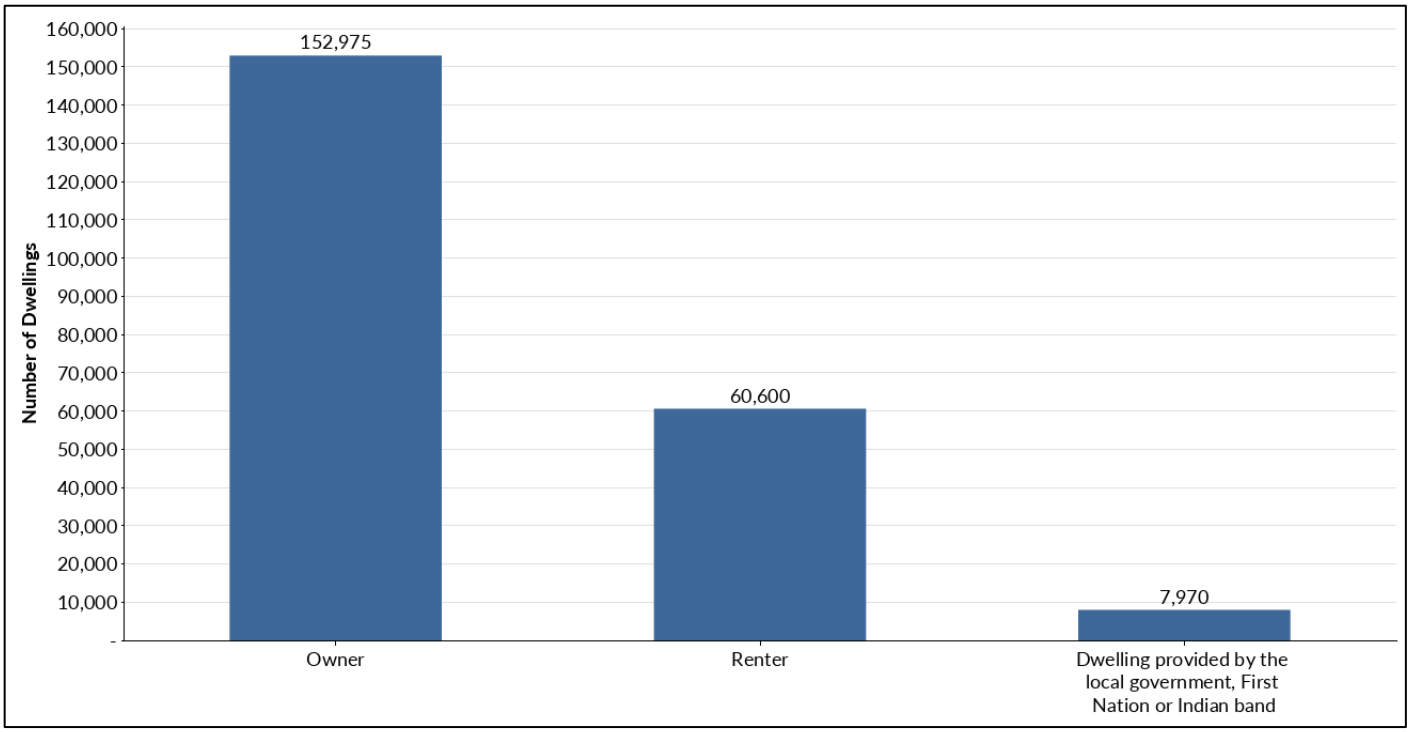
Structural Type	Count	Distribution
Single-detached house	89,545	72.7%
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	14,880	12.1%
Semi-detached house	5,175	4.2%
Apartment of flat in a duplex	4,715	3.8%
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	3,395	2.8%
Row house	3,230	2.6%
Moveable dwelling	1,950	1.6%
Other single-attached house	335	0.3%
Total	**123,200**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-60 and **Table 5-49** present the occupied private dwellings by tenure (owned, rented, or government/band housing) for the RSA in 2021, and is summarized below:

- The majority of the occupied private dwellings in the RSA are owned at 68.4% followed by rented at 26.3%; and
- 5.3% of occupied private dwellings are considered to be provided by the local government or band housing.

Figure 5-60: Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure in Regional Study Area, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-49: Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure in Regional Study Area, 2021

Tenure	Count	Distribution
Owner	83,905	68.4%
Renter	32,200	26.3%
Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	6,555	5.3%
Total	**122,660**	**100%**

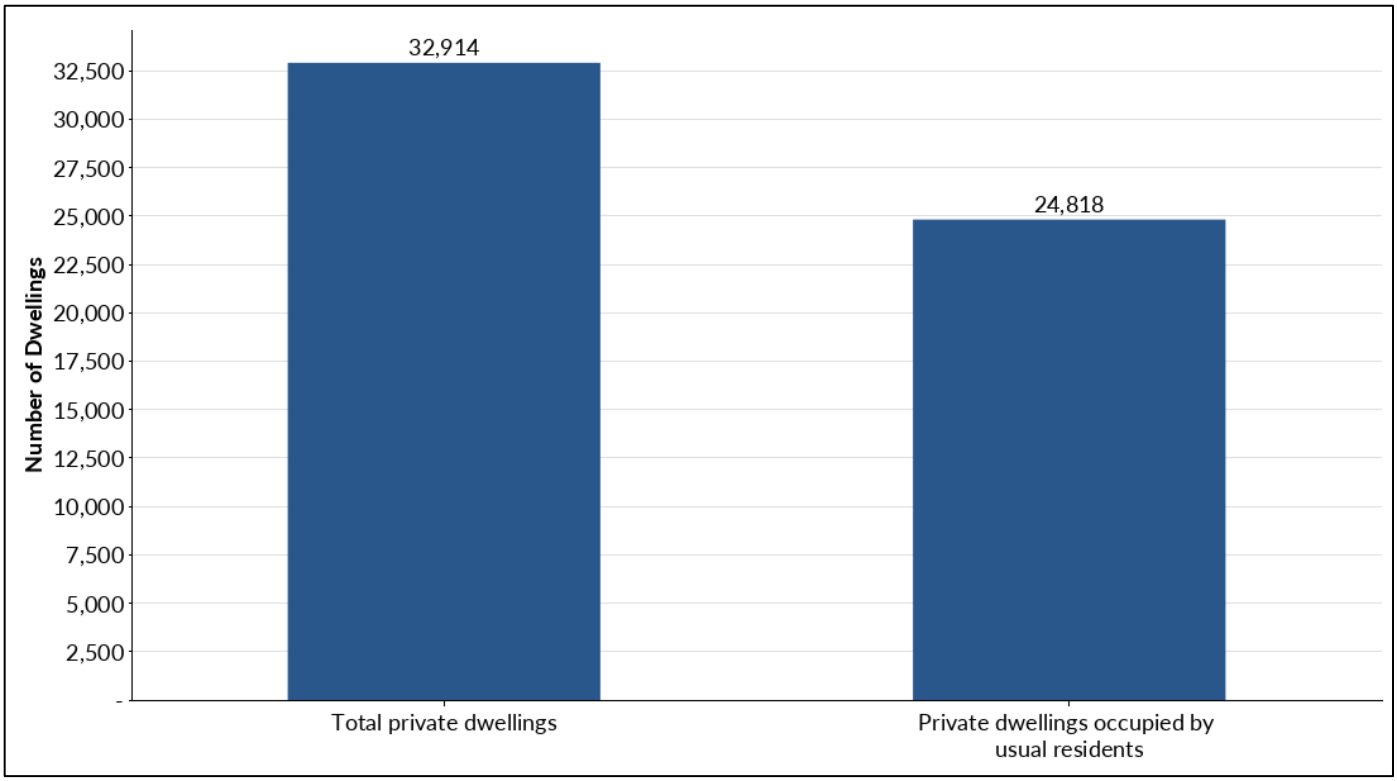
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.1.1 Kenora District

Figure 5-61 presents the total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the Kenora District for 2021. Private dwelling occupied by usual residents refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing (Statistics Canada, 2019). The total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the Kenora District for 2021 is summarized below:

- There are 32,914 total private dwellings in the Kenora District as of 2021.
- Of the 32,914 private dwellings, 24,818 (75.4%) are occupied by usual residents.

Figure 5-61: Total Private Dwellings and Occupied Private Dwellings in Kenora District, 2021

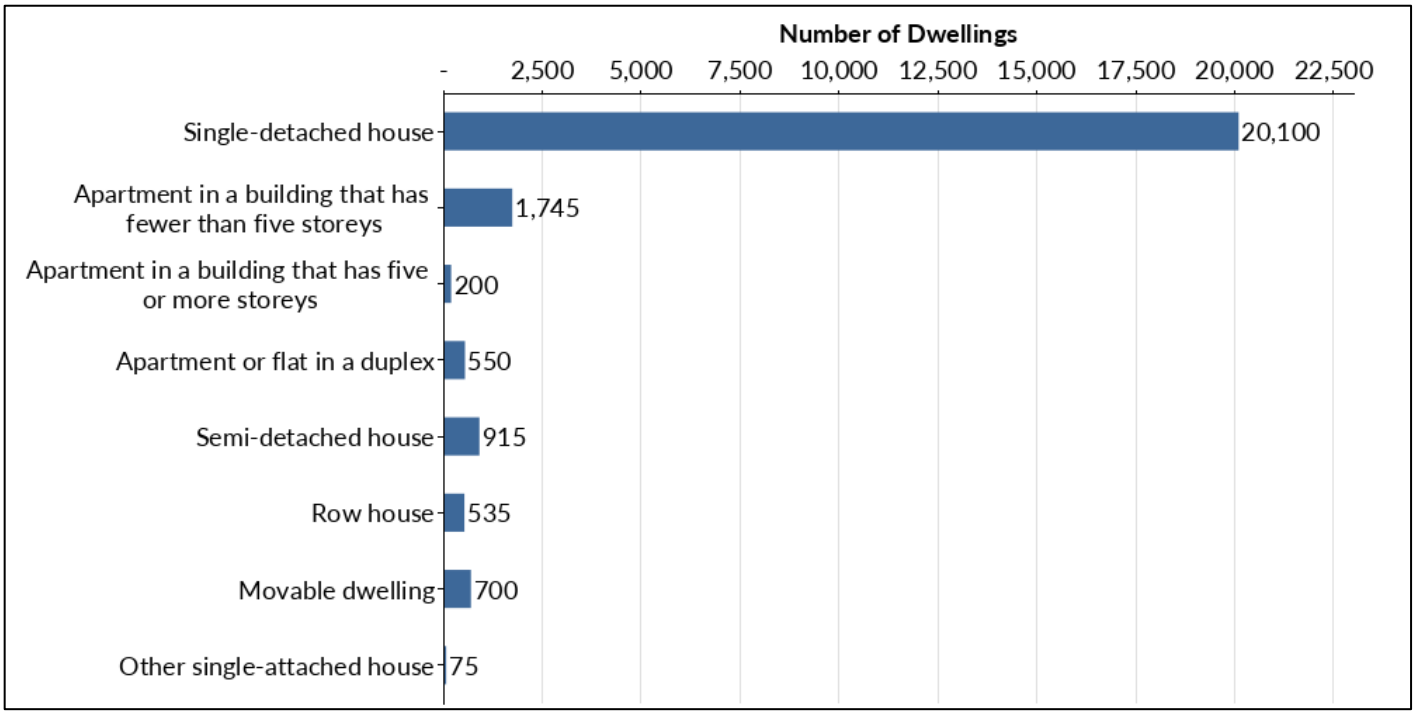


Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-62 and **Table 5-50** present the total occupied dwellings in the Kenora District by structure type in 2021, and is summarized below:

- The majority of dwellings are classified as single-detached home at 81%;
- Apartments make up 10.1% of occupied dwellings. Apartments include the following categories: apartments in a building that has less than five storeys, apartment or flat in a duplex, and apartments in a building that has five or more storeys; and
- The smallest category of occupied dwellings is other single-attached houses with 0.3%.

Figure 5-62: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Structure Type, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-50: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Structure Type, 2021

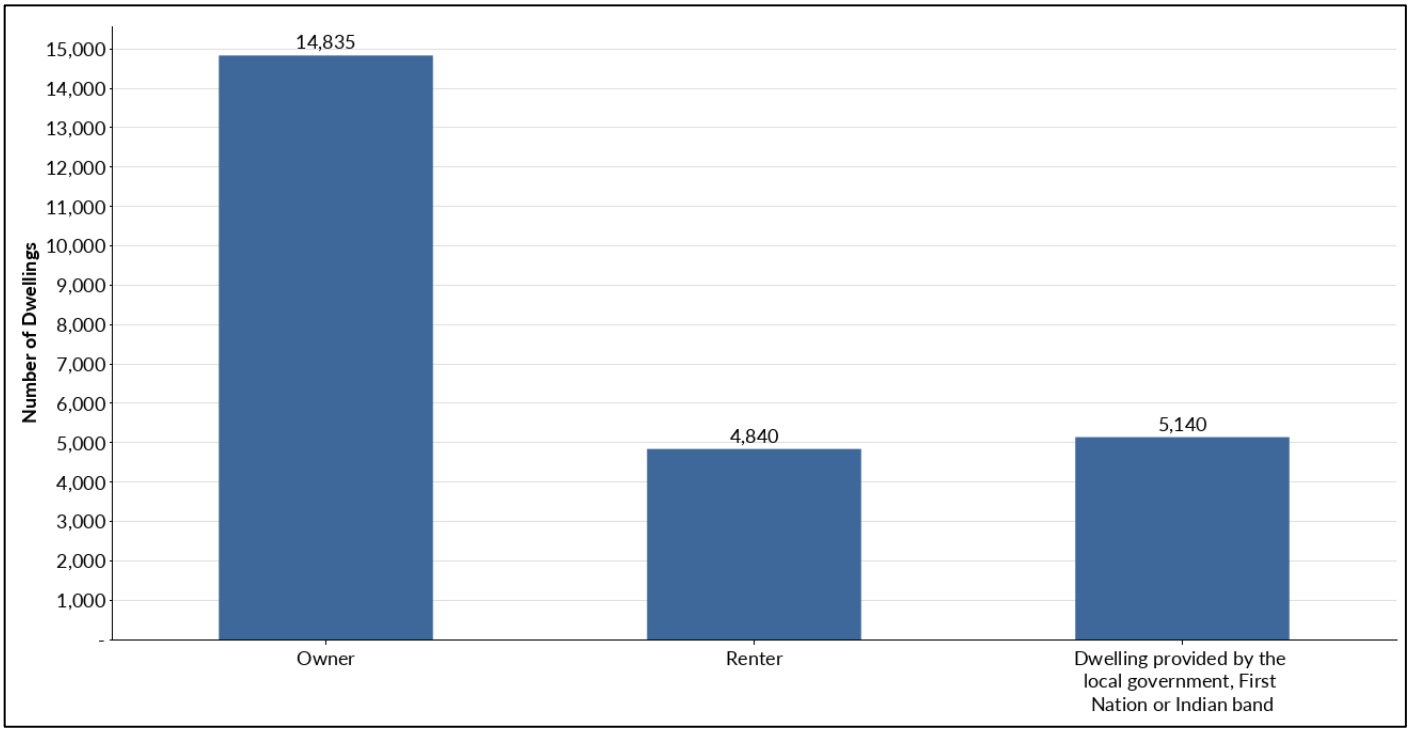
Structural Type	Count	Distribution
Single-detached house	20,100	81%
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	1,745	7%
Semi-detached house	915	3.7%
Moveable dwelling	700	2.8%
Apartment of flat in a duplex	550	2.2%
Row house	535	2.2%
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	200	0.8%
Other single-attached house	75	0.3%
Total	**24,820**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-63 and **Table 5-51** present the private dwellings by tenure (owned, rented, or government/band housing) for the Kenora District in 2021, and is summarized below:

- The majority of the private dwellings in the Kenora District are owned at 59.8%; and
- Occupied private dwellings which are rented or considered to be provided by the local government or band housing are nearly equal at 19.5% and 20.7% respectively.

Figure 5-63: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-51: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure, 2021

Tenure	Count	Distribution
Owner	14,835	59.8%
Renter	4,840	19.5%
Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	5,140	20.7%
Total	**24,815**	**100%**

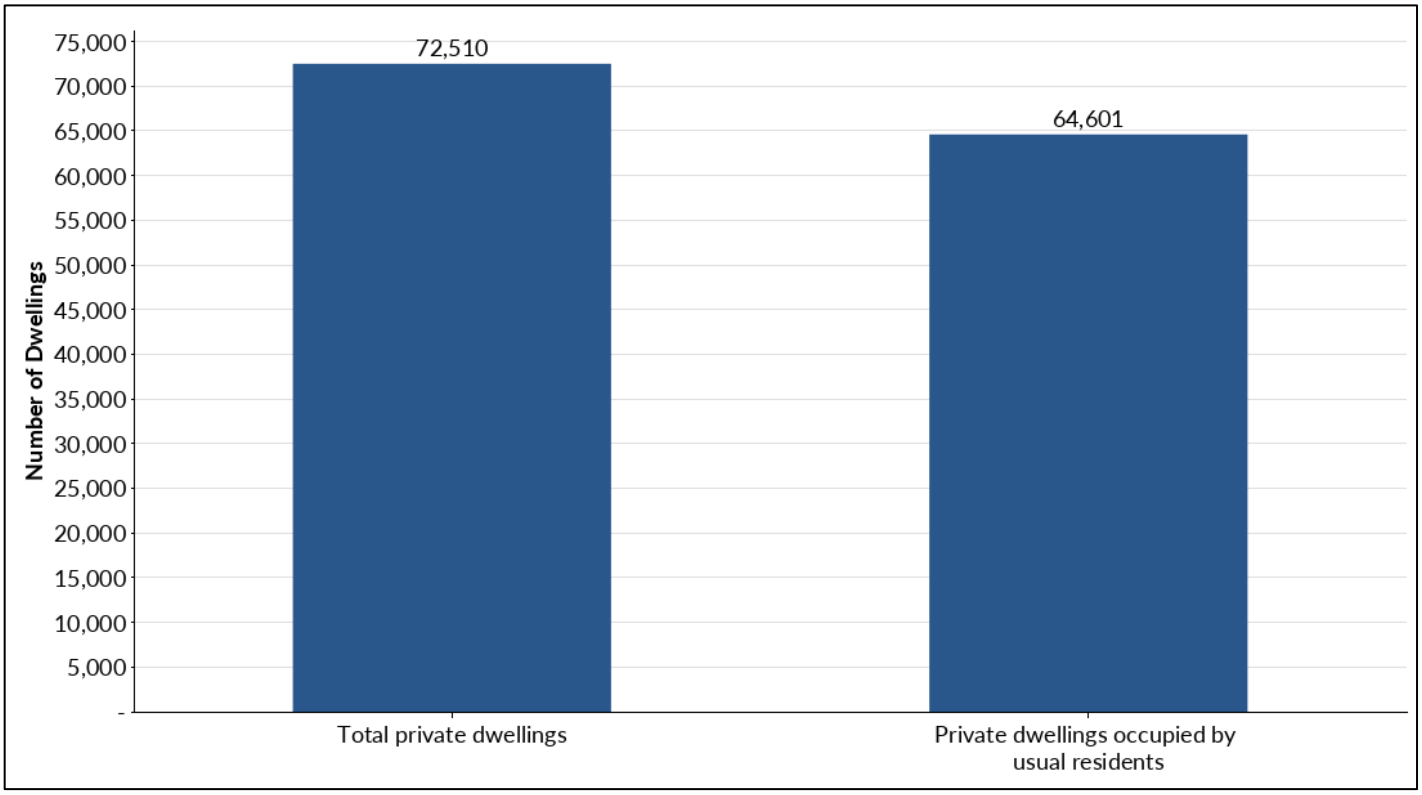
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.1.2 Thunder Bay District

Figure 5-64 presents the total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the Thunder Bay District for 2021. Private dwelling occupied by usual residents refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing (Statistics Canada, 2019). The total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the Thunder Bay District for 2021 is summarized below:

- There are 72,510 total private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District as of 2021; and
- Of the 72,510 private dwellings, 64,601 (89.1%) are occupied by usual residents.

Figure 5-64: Thunder Bay District – Total Private Dwellings and Occupied Private Dwellings, 2021

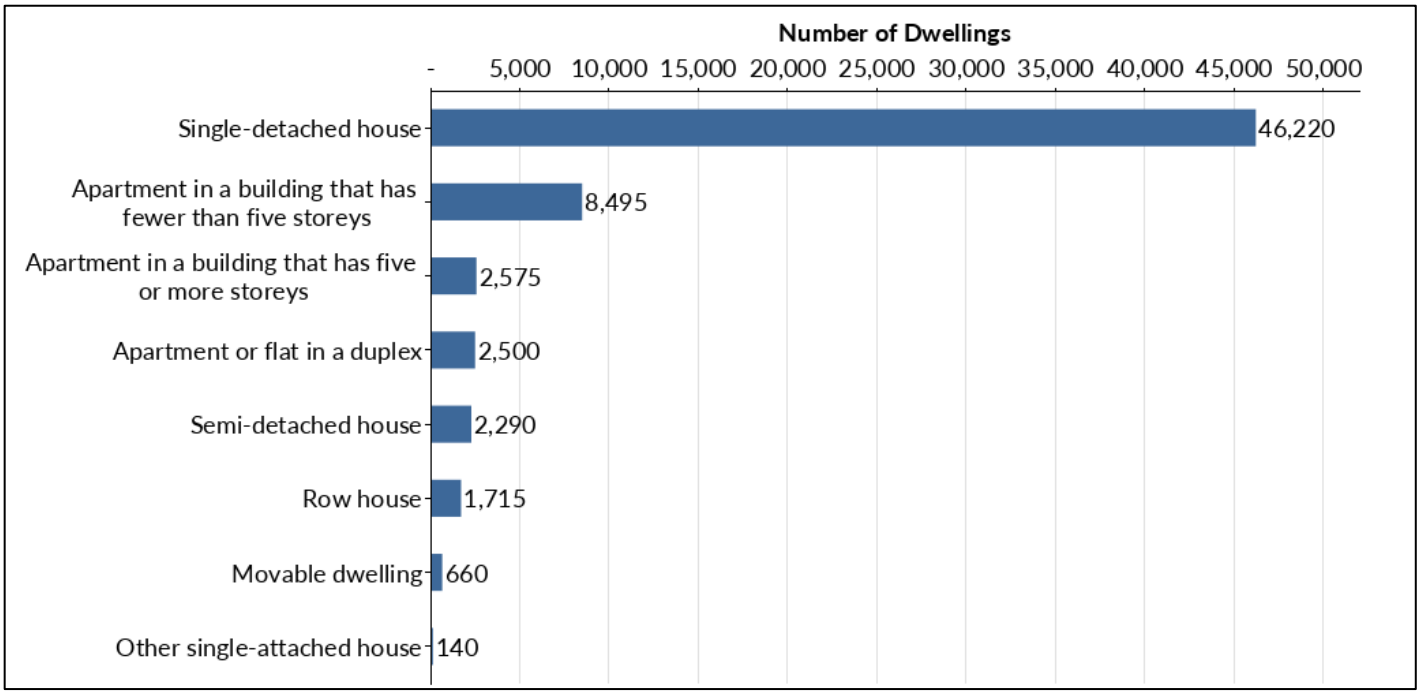


Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-65 and **Table 5-52** present the total occupied dwellings in the Thunder Bay District by structure type in 2021, and is summarized below:

- The majority of occupied dwellings are classified as single-detached home at 71.6%;
- Apartments make up 21% of occupied dwellings. Apartments include the following categories: apartments in a building that has less than five storeys, apartment or flat in a duplex, and apartments in a building that has five or more storeys; and
- The smallest category of occupied dwellings is other single-attached houses with 0.2%.

Figure 5-65: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Structure Type, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-52: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Structure Type, 2021

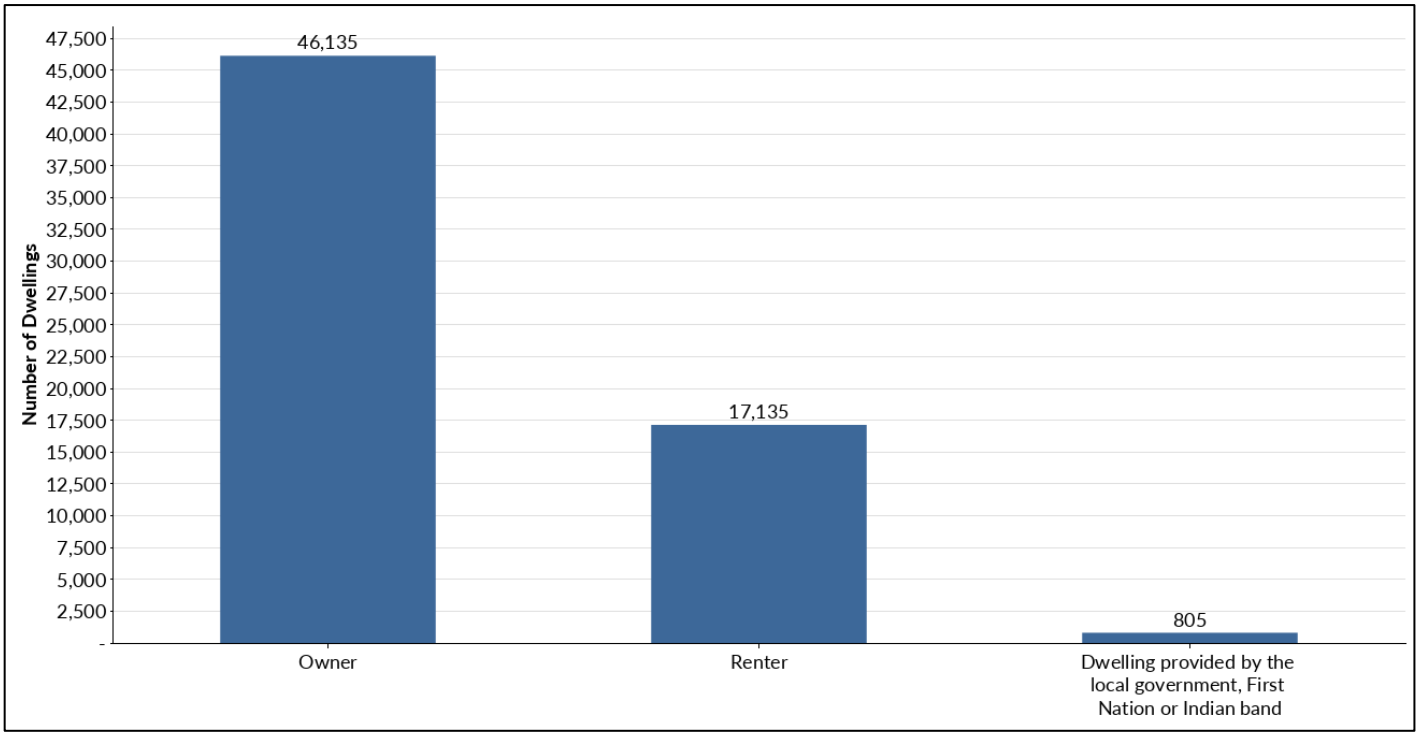
Structural Type	Count	Distribution
Single-detached house	46,220	71.6%
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	8,495	13.2%
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	2,575	4%
Apartment of flat in a duplex	2,500	3.9%
Semi-detached house	2,290	3.5%
Row house	1,715	2.7%
Moveable dwelling	660	1%
Other single-attached house	140	0.2%
Total	**64,595**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-66 and **Table 5-53** present the occupied private dwellings by tenure (owned, rented, or government/band housing) for the Thunder Bay District in 2021, and is summarized below:

- The majority of the private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District are owned at 72% followed by rented at 26.7%; and
- 1.3% of private dwellings are considered to be provided by the local government or band housing.

Figure 5-66: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-53: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure, 2021

Tenure	Count	Distribution
Owner	46,135	72.0%
Renter	17,135	26.7%
Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	805	1.3%
Total	**64,075**	**100%**

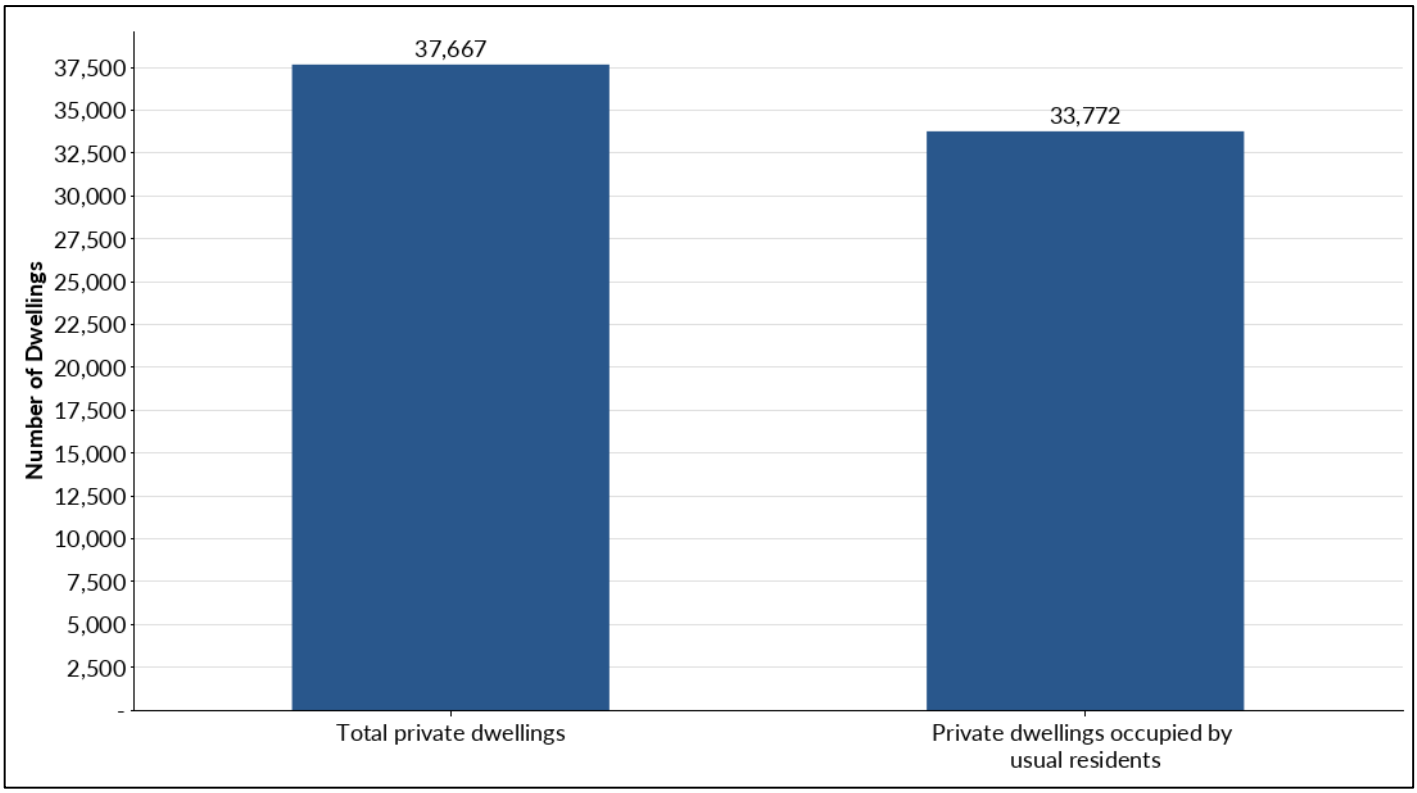
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.1.3 Cochrane District

Figure 5-67 presents the total private dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents in the Cochrane District for 2021. Private dwelling occupied by usual residents refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons is permanently residing (Statistics Canada, 2019). Information on private dwellings in Cochrane District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- There are 37,667 total private dwellings in the Cochrane District; and
- Of the 37,667 private dwellings, 33,772 (89.7%) are occupied by usual residents.

Figure 5-67: Cochrane District – Total Private Dwellings and Occupied Private Dwellings, 2021

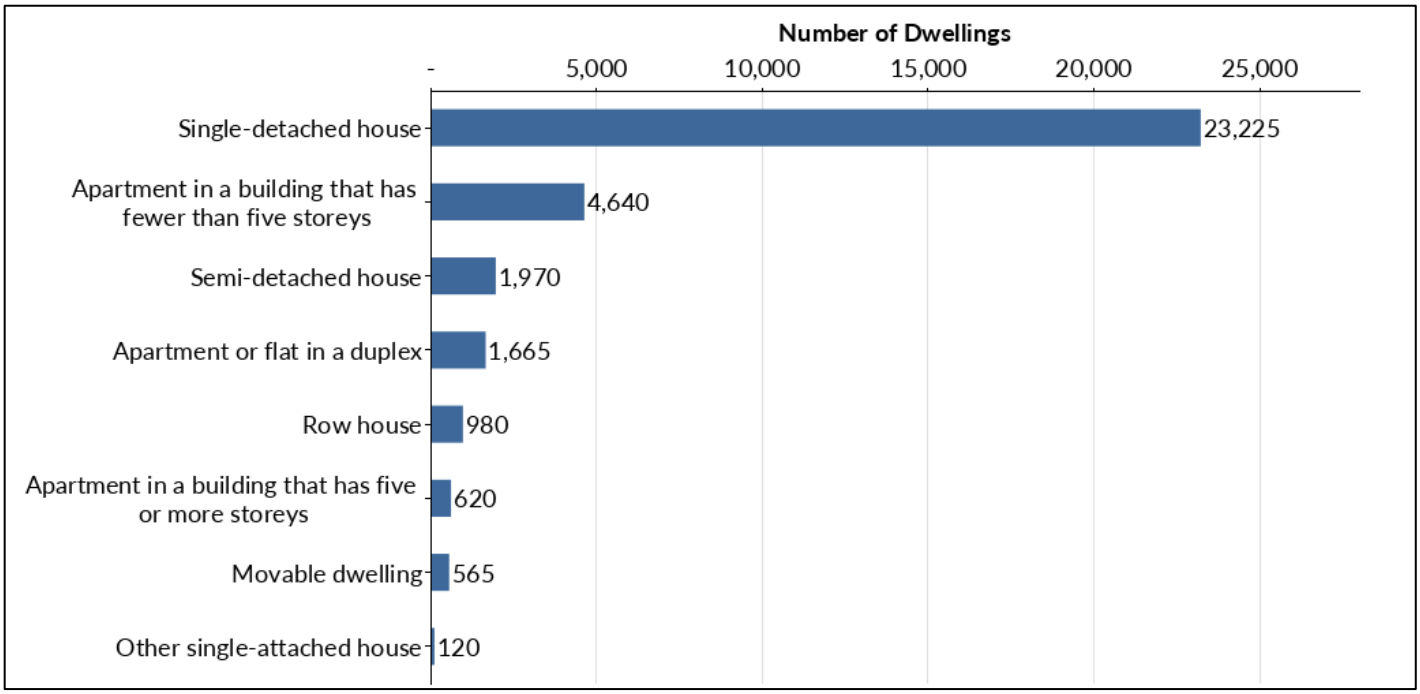


Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-68 and **Table 5-54** present the total occupied dwellings in the Cochrane District by structure type in 2021. Structure type of occupied dwellings in Cochrane District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of occupied dwellings are classified as single-detached home at 68.7%;
- Apartments make up 20.5% of occupied dwellings. Apartments include the following categories: apartments in a building that has less than five storeys, apartment or flat in a duplex, and apartments in a building that has five or more storeys; and
- The smallest category of occupied dwellings is other single-attached houses with 0.4%.

Figure 5-68: Cochrane District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Structure Type, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-54: Cochrane District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Structure Type, 2021

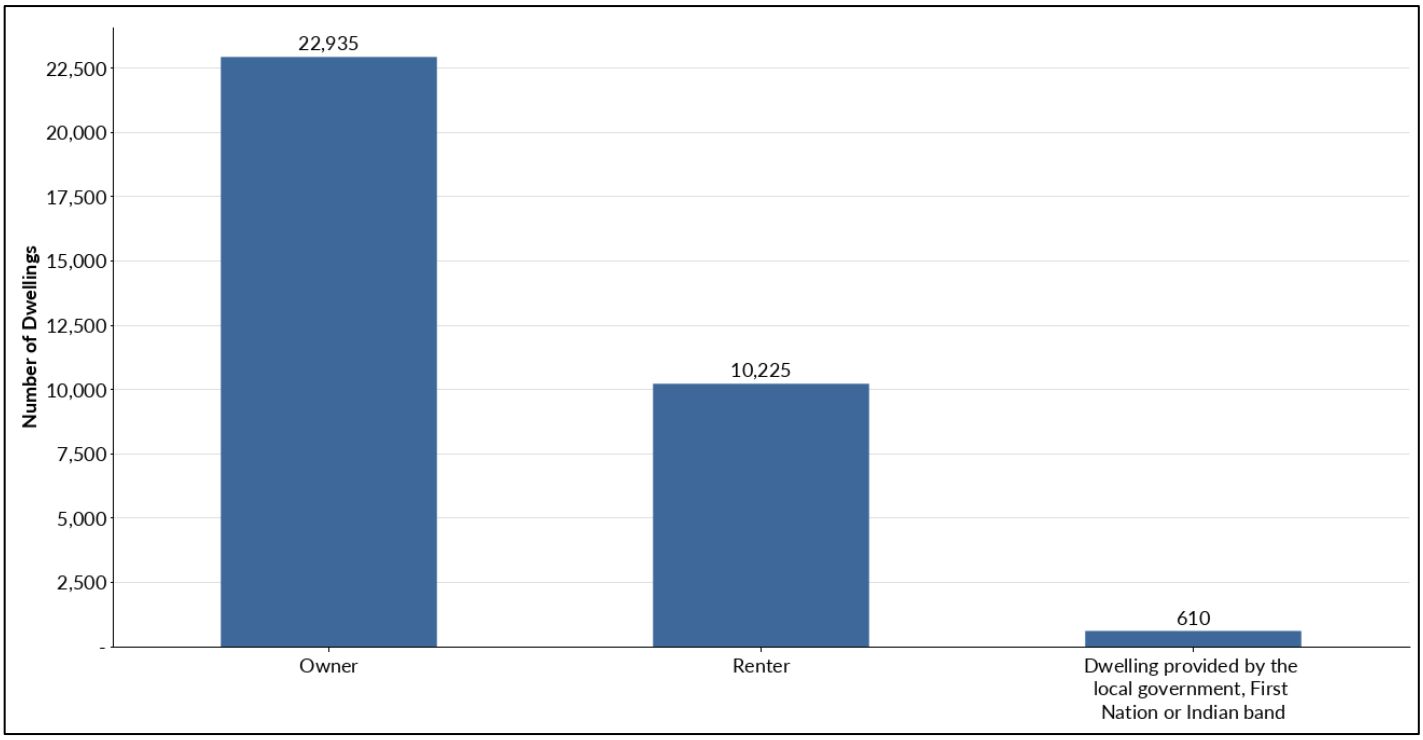
Structural Type	Count	Distribution
Single-detached house	23,225	68.7%
Apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys	4,640	13.7%
Semi-detached house	1,970	5.8%
Apartment or flat in duplex	1,665	4.9%
Row house	980	2.9%
Apartment in a building that has five or more storeys	620	1.8%
Moveable dwelling	565	1.7%
Other single-attached house	120	0.4%
Total	**33,785**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-69 and **Table 5-55** present the occupied private dwellings by tenure (owned, rented, or government/band housing) for the Cochrane District in 2021. Tenure of occupied dwellings in Cochrane District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of the occupied private dwellings in the Cochrane District are owned at 67.9% followed by rented at 30.3%; and
- 1.8% of occupied private dwellings are considered to be provided by the local government or band housing.

Figure 5-69: Cochrane District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-55: Cochrane District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Tenure, 2021

Tenure	Count	Distribution
Owner	22,935	67.9%
Renter	10,225	30.3%
Dwelling provided by the local government, First Nation or Indian band	610	1.8%
Total	**33,770**	**100%**

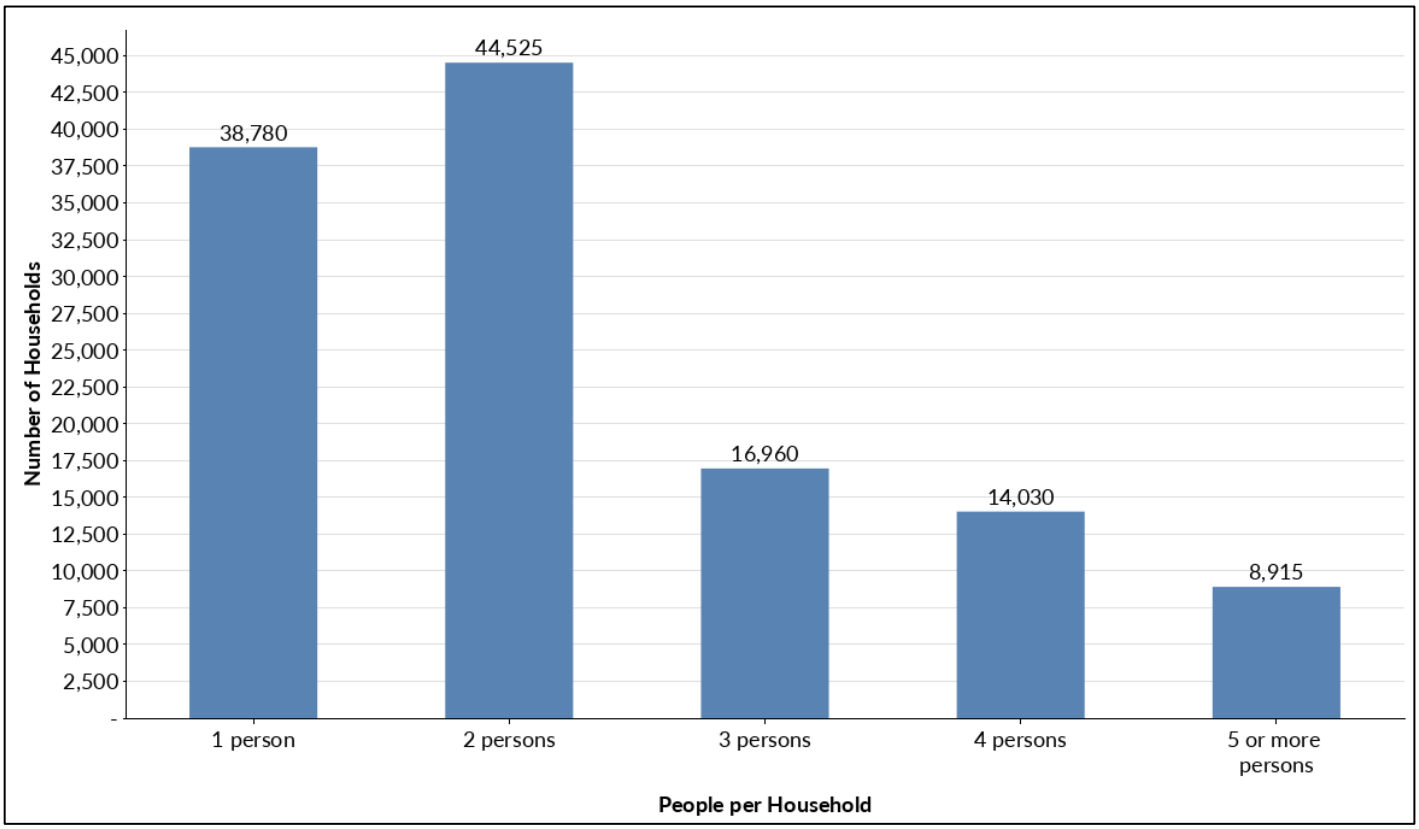
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.2 Household Characteristics

Figure 5-70 and **Table 5-56** present the number of people per household in the RSA for 2021, and is summarized below:

- The majority of households are occupied by two persons at 36%; and
- The least number of households are occupied by 5 or more persons at 7%.

Figure 5-70: People per Household in Regional Study Area (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-56: People per Household in Regional Study Area (2021)

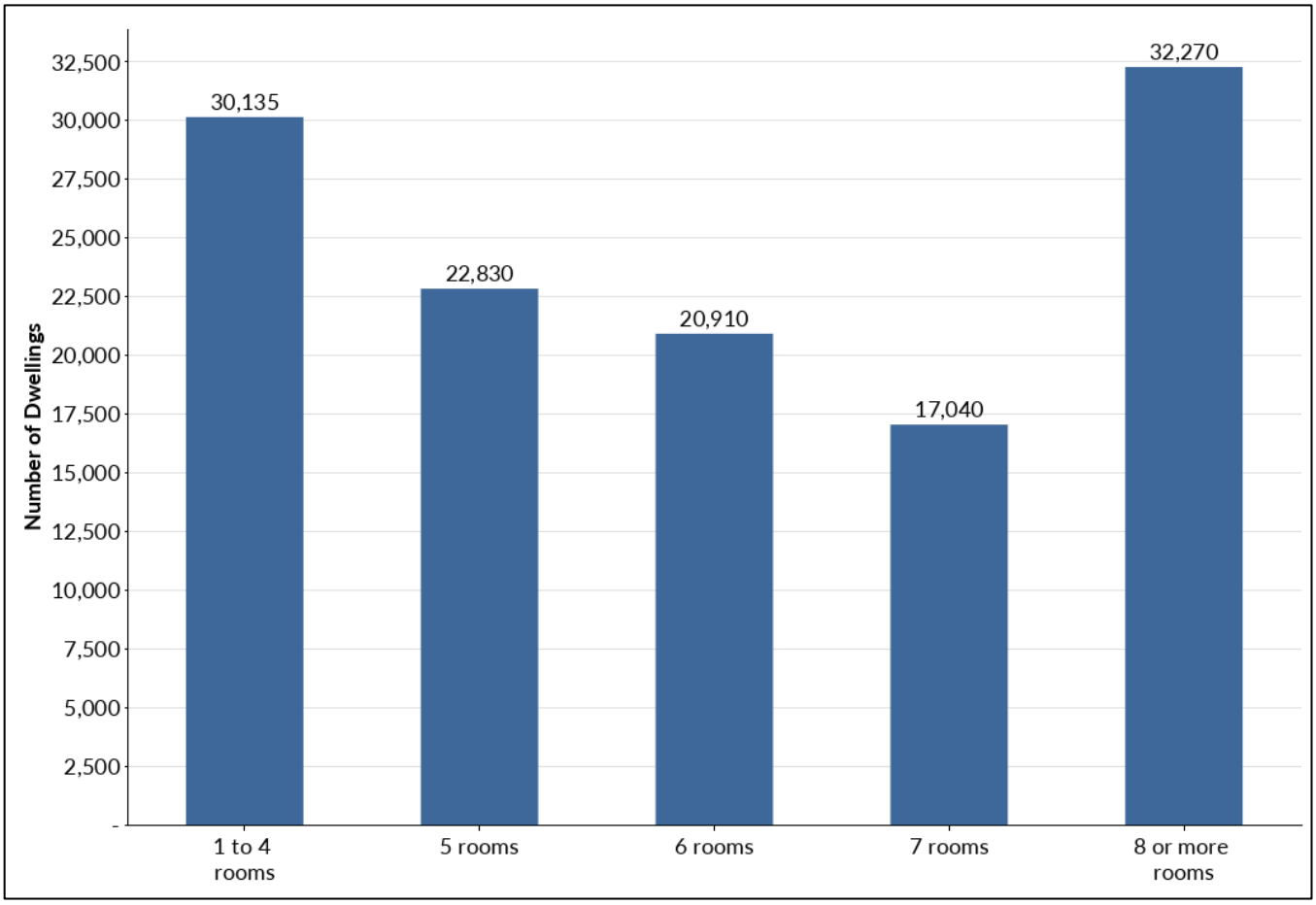
People per Household	Count	Distribution
1 person	38,780	31%
2 persons	44,525	36%
3 persons	16,960	14%
4 persons	14,030	11%
5 persons or more	8,915	7%
Total	**123,210**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-71 and **Table 5-57** present the number of bedrooms per private household for the RSA in 2021, and is summarized below:

- The majority of private households in the RSA consist of 8 or more rooms at 26.2% followed by 1 to 4 rooms at 24.5%.
- The least number of private households are comprised of 7 rooms at 13.8%.

Figure 5-71: Rooms per Household in Regional Study Area (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-57: Rooms per Household in Regional Study Area (2021)

Rooms per Household	Count	Distribution
1 to 4 rooms	30,135	24.5%
5 rooms	22,830	18.5%
6 rooms	20,910	17%
7 rooms	17,040	13.8%
8 or more rooms	32,270	26.2%
Total	**123,185**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

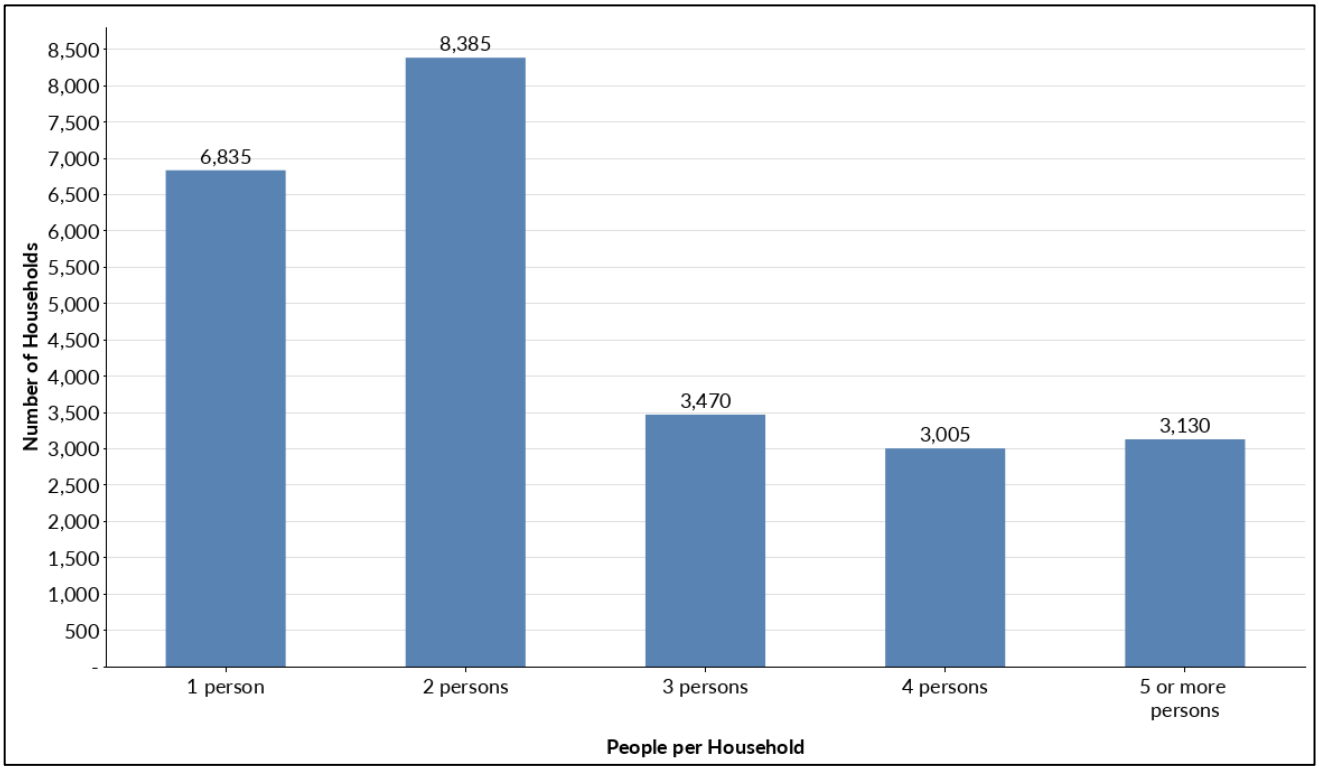
The following subsections describe characteristics of households (i.e., occupied private dwellings) for the Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District in the RSA.

5.2.2.2.1 Kenora District

Figure 5-72 and **Table 5-58** present the number of households by the household size (i.e., the number of people per household) in the Kenora District for 2021. The number of households by the household size in Kenora District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of households are occupied by two persons at 34%; and
- The least number of households are occupied by four persons at 12%.

Figure 5-72: Kenora District – Number of Households by Household Size (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-58: Kenora District – Number of Households by Household Size (2021)

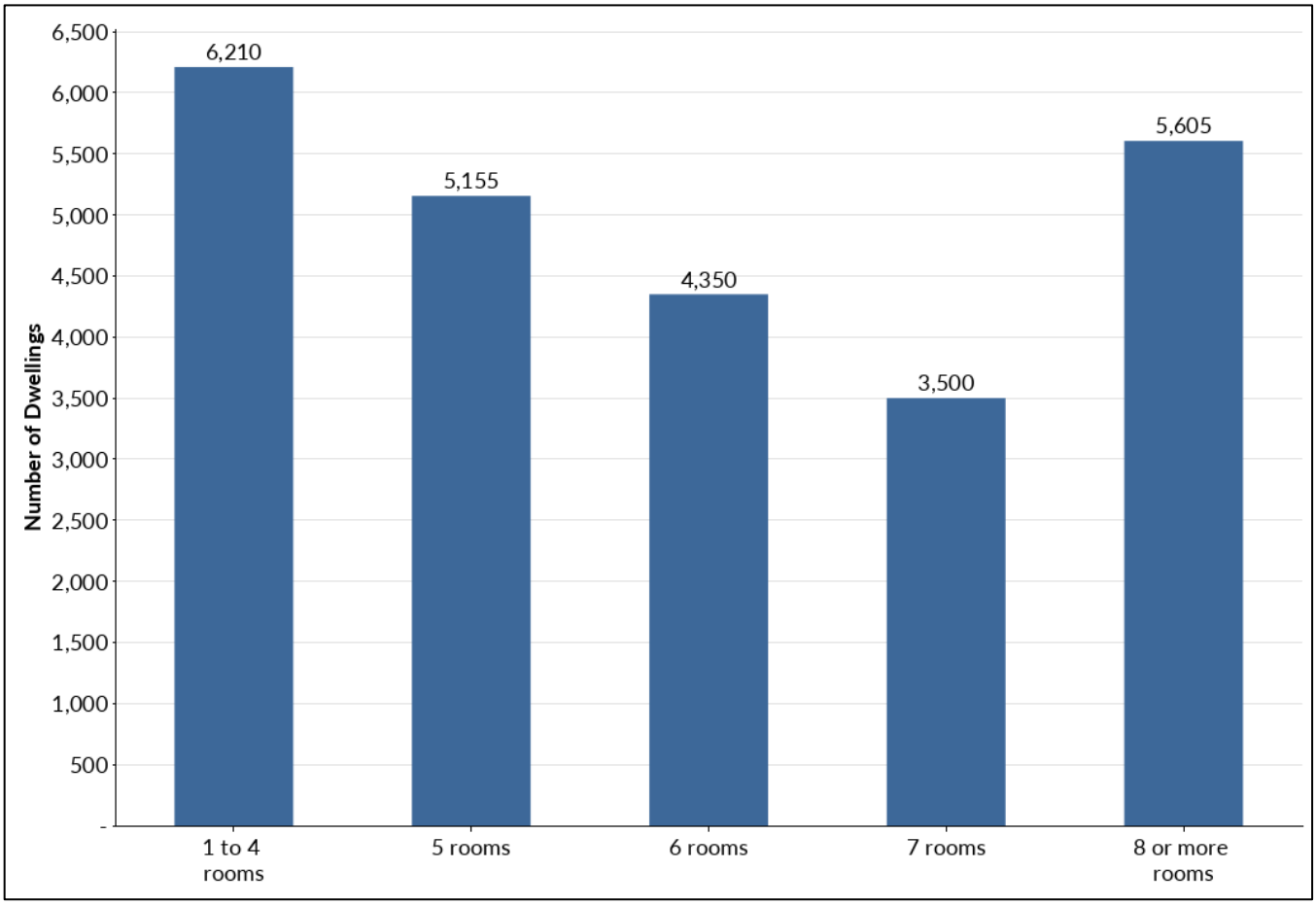
People per Household	Count	Distribution
1 person	6,835	28%
2 persons	8,385	34%
3 persons	3,470	14%
4 persons	3,005	12%
5 persons or more	3.130	13%
Total	**24,825**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-73 and **Table 5-59** present the number of rooms per household for the Kenora District in 2021. The number of rooms per household in Kenora District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of households in the Kenora District consist of 1 to 4 rooms at 25% followed by 8 or more rooms at 22.6%; and
- The least number of households are comprised of 7 rooms at 14.1%.

Figure 5-73: Kenora District – Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-59: Kenora District – Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household (2021)

Rooms per Household	Count	Distribution
1 to 4 rooms	6,210	25.0%
5 rooms	5,155	20.8%
6 rooms	4,350	17.5%
7 rooms	3,500	14.1%
8 or more rooms	5,605	22.6%
Total	**24,820**	**100%**

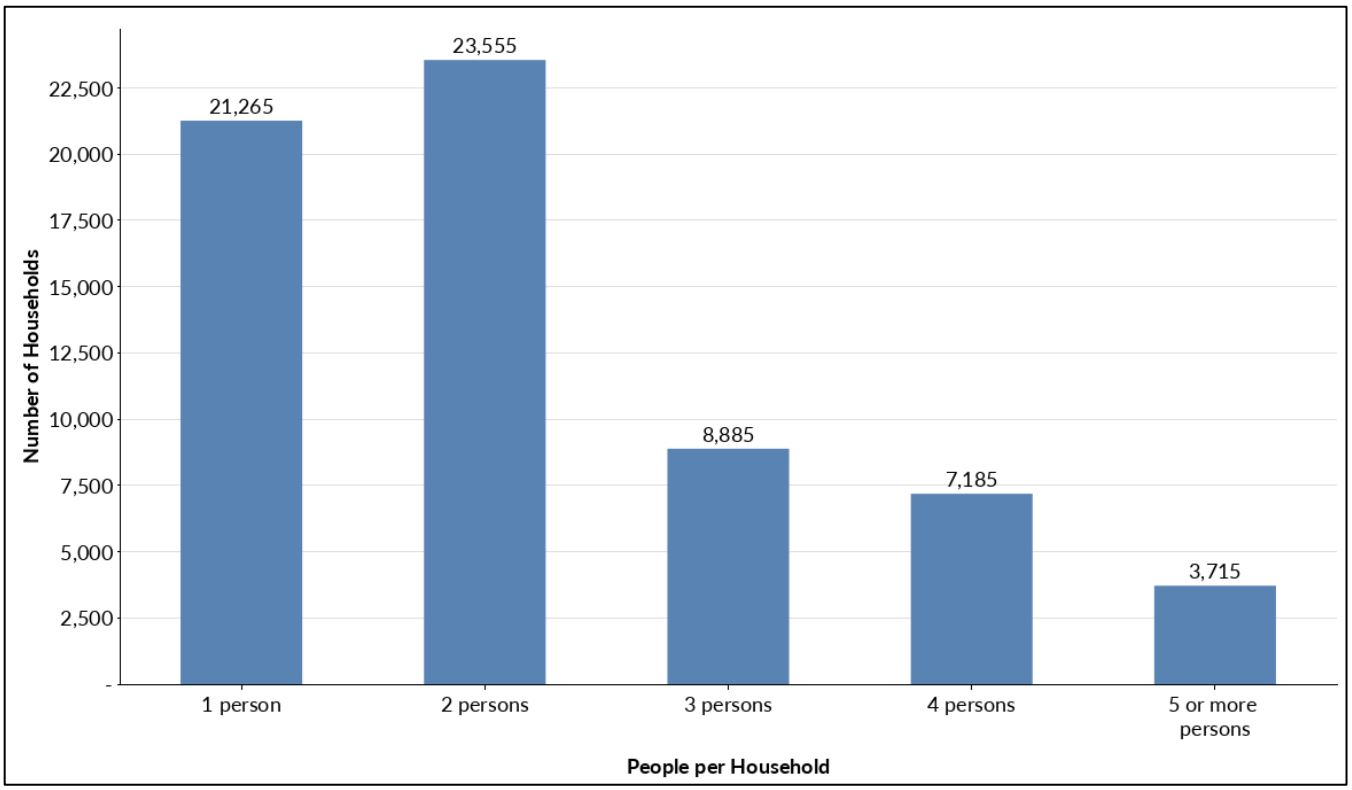
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.2.2 Thunder Bay District

Figure 5-74 and **Table 5-60** present the number of households by the household size (i.e., the number of people per household) in the Thunder Bay District for 2021. The number of households by the household size in Thunder Bay District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of households are occupied by two persons at 36%; and
- The least number of households are occupied by five or more persons at 6%.

Figure 5-74: Thunder Bay District – Number of Persons by Household Size (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-60: Thunder Bay District – Number of Persons by Household Size (2021)

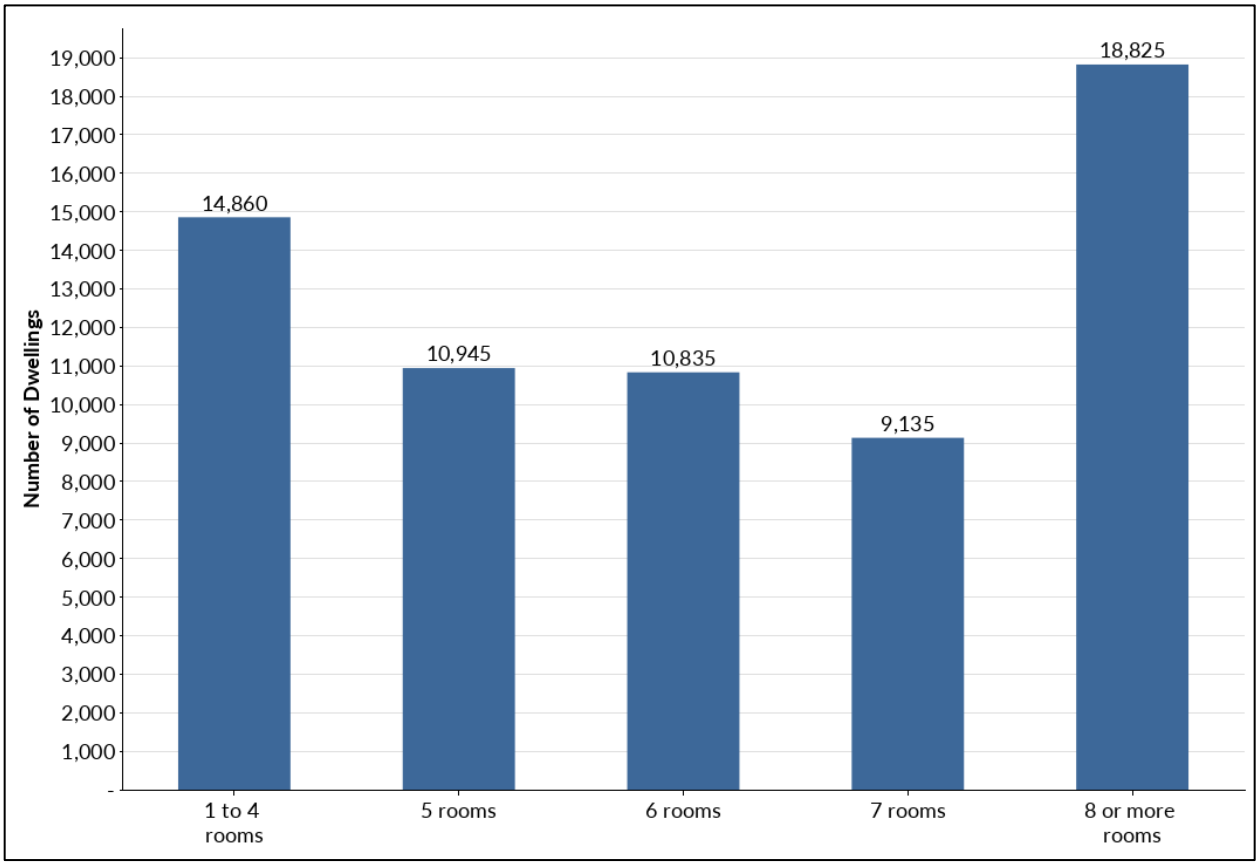
People per Household	Count	Distribution
1 person	21,265	33%
2 persons	23,555	36%
3 persons	8,885	14%
4 persons	7,185	11%
5 persons or more	3,715	6%
Total	**64,605**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-75 and **Table 5-61** present the number of rooms per household for the Thunder Bay District in 2021. The number of rooms per household in Thunder Bay District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of households in the Thunder Bay District consist of 8 or more rooms at 29.1% followed by 1 to 4 rooms at 23%; and
- The least number of households are comprised of 7 rooms at 14.1%.

Figure 5-75: Thunder Bay District – Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-61: Thunder Bay District – Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household (2021)

Rooms per Household	Count	Distribution
1 to 4 rooms	14,860	23.0%
5 rooms	10,945	16.9%
6 rooms	10,835	16.8%
7 rooms	9,135	14.1%
8 or more rooms	18,825	29.1%
Total	**64,600**	**100%**

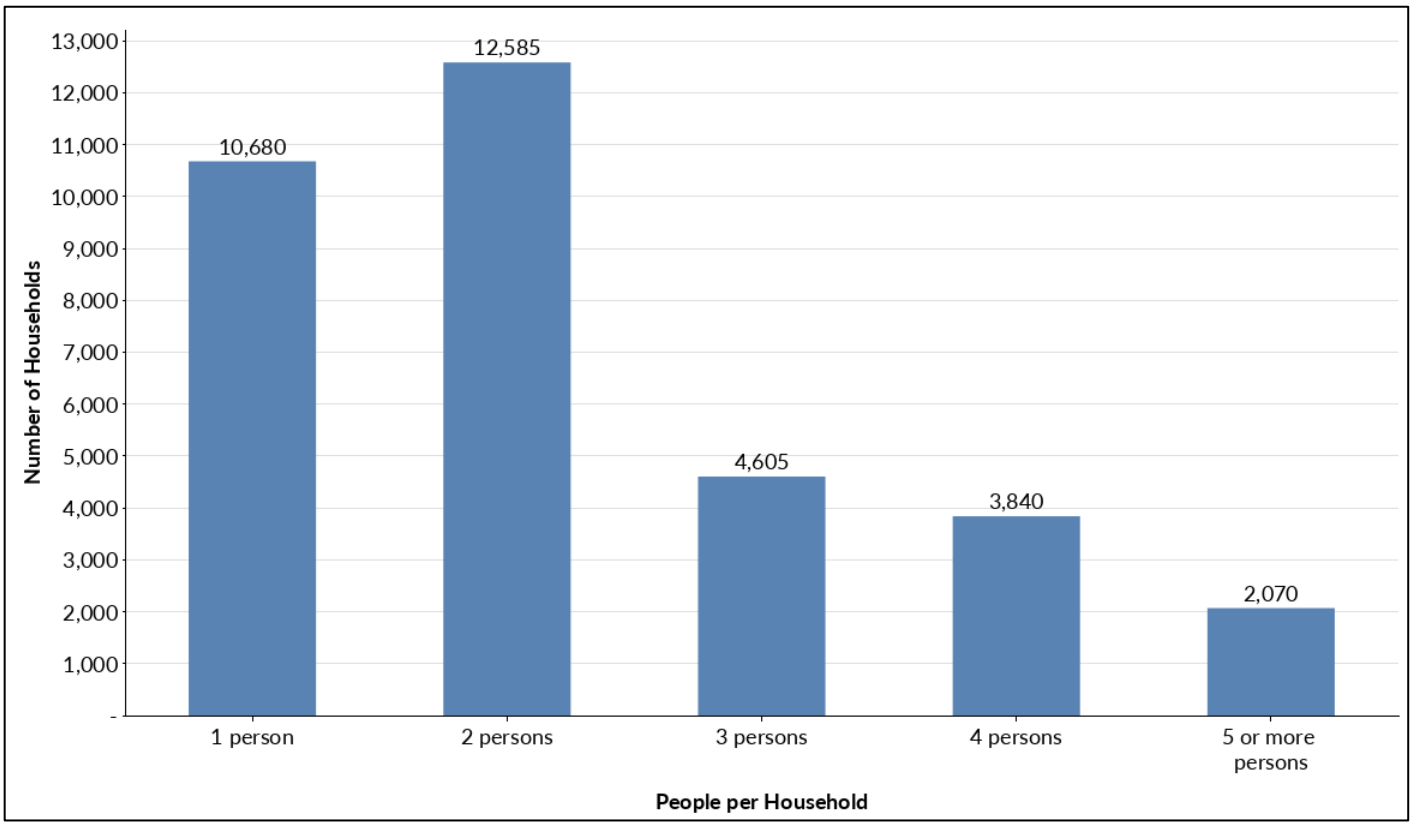
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.2.3 Cochrane District

Figure 5-76 and **Table 5-62** present the number of households by the household size (i.e., the number of people per household) in the Cochrane District for 2021. The number of households by the household size in Cochrane District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of households are occupied by two persons at 37%; and
- The least number of households are occupied by 5 or more persons at 6%.

Figure 5-76: Cochrane District – Number of Households by Household Size (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-62: Cochrane District – Number of Households by Household Size (2021)

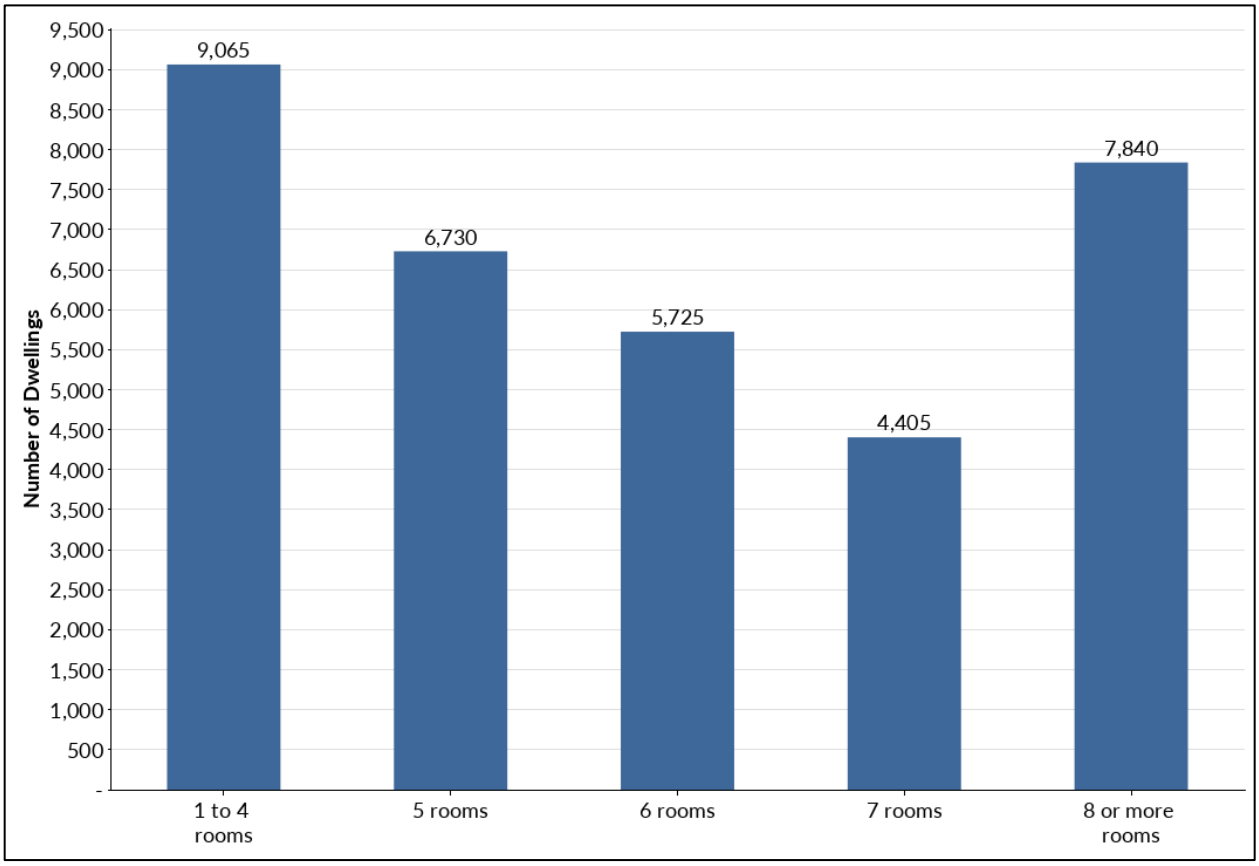
People per Household	Count	Distribution
1 person	10,680	32%
2 persons	12,585	37%
3 persons	4,605	14%
4 persons	3,840	11%
5 persons or more	2,070	6%
Total	**33,780**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-77 and **Table 5-63** present the number of rooms per household for the Cochrane District in 2021. The number of rooms per household in Cochrane District in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The majority of households in the Cochrane District consist of 1 to 4 rooms at 26.8% followed by 8 or more rooms at 23.2%; and
- The least number of households are comprised of 7 rooms at 13%.

Figure 5-77: Cochrane District – Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-63: Cochrane District – Number of Households by Number of Rooms per Household (2021)

Rooms per Household	Count	Distribution
1 to 4 rooms	9,065	26.8%
5 rooms	6,730	19.9%
6 rooms	5,725	17.0%
7 rooms	4,405	13.0%
8 or more rooms	7,840	23.2%
Total	**33,765**	**100%**

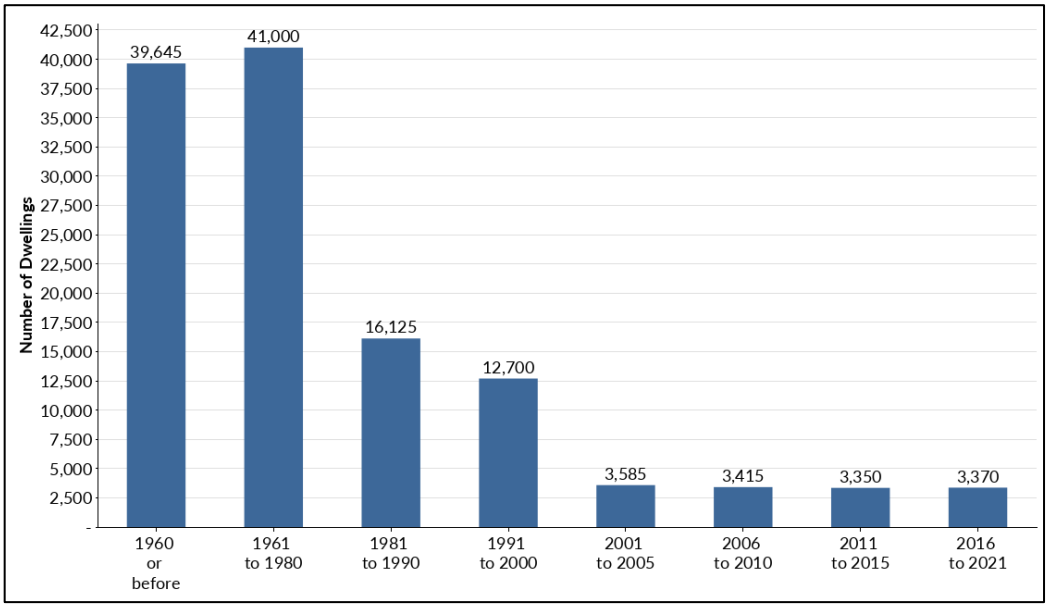
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.3 Housing Conditions

Figure 5-78 and **Table 5-64** present the total occupied private dwellings by period of construction for the RSA from 1960 to 2021, and is summarized below:

- 1961 to 1980 is the largest group with 33.3% of private dwellings being built during this period;
- 2011 to 2015 and 2016 to 2021 are the smallest groups each with 2.7% of private dwellings being built during these periods;
- 88.9% of the occupied private dwellings in the RSA were constructed during or prior to 2000; and
- Over the last two decades, 13,720 dwellings were constructed which comprises just over 10% the occupied housing stock.

Figure 5-78: Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction in Regional Study Area from 1960 to 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-64: Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction in Regional Study Area from 1960 to 2021

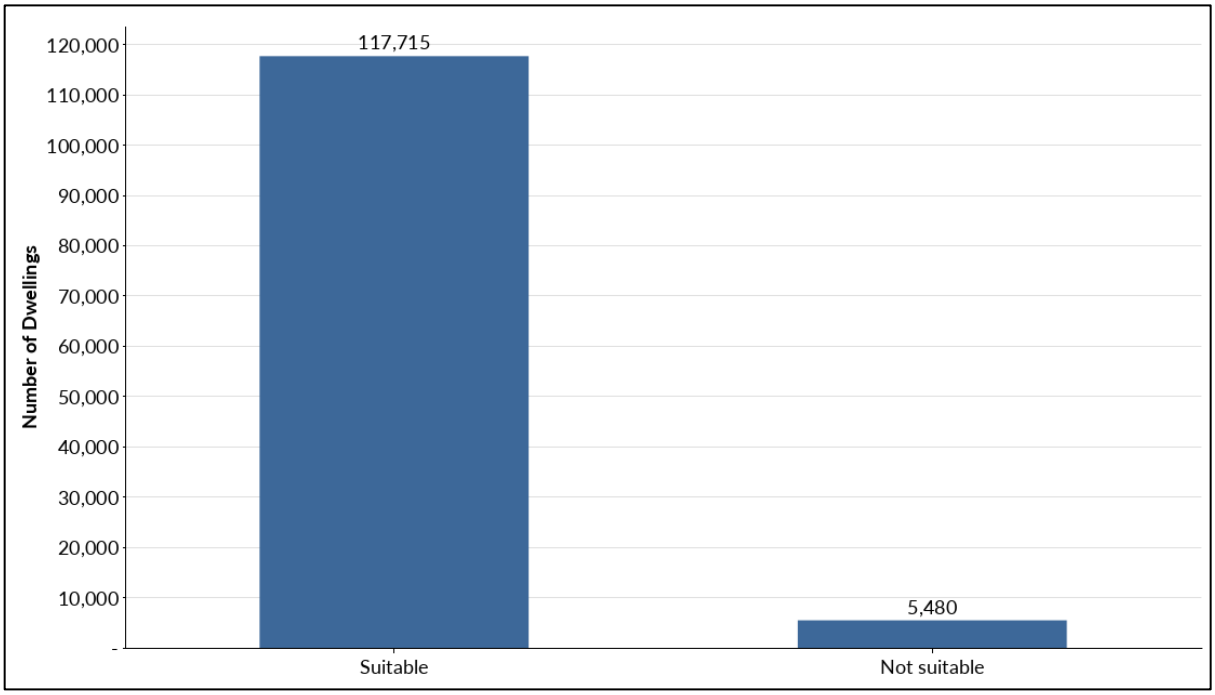
Construction Period	Count	Distribution
1960 or before	39,645	32.2%
1961 to 1980	41,000	33.3%
1981 to 1990	16,125	13.1%
1991 to 2000	12,700	10.3%
2001 to 2005	3,585	2.9%
2006 to 2010	3,415	2.8%
2011 to 2015	3,350	2.7%
2016 to 2021	3,370	2.7%
Total	**123,190**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-79 and **Table 5-65** present the suitability of the occupied private dwellings in the RSA for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “suitable” or “unsuitable”. Housing suitability assesses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members (Statistics Canada, 2017b). The suitability of the occupied private dwellings in the RSA for 2021 is presented below:

- In 2021, 4.4% of the occupied private dwellings across the RSA were categorized as unsuitable.

Figure 5-79: Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability in Regional Study Area (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-65: Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability in Regional Study Area (2021)

Suitability	Count	Distribution
Suitable	117,715	95.6%
Not suitable	5,480	4.4%
Total	**123,195**	**100%**

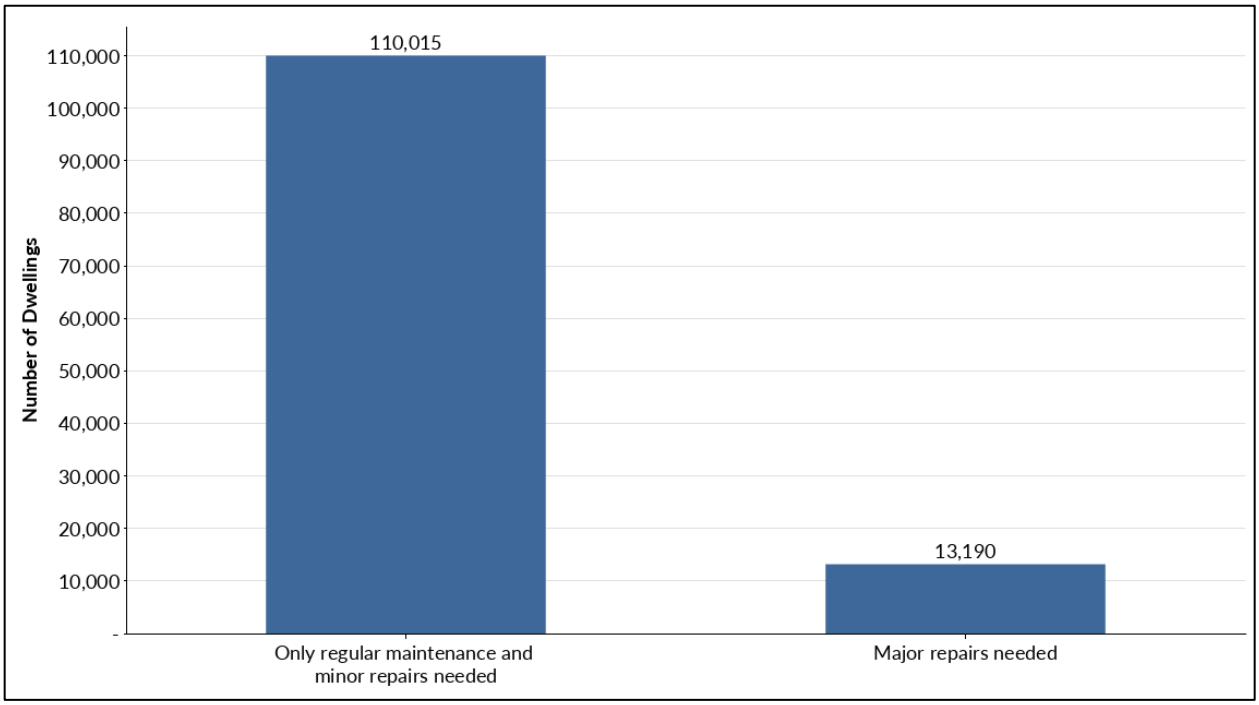
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-80 and **Table 5-66** present the conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the Regional Study Area for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed” or “major repairs needed”. Dwelling condition refers to whether the dwelling is in need of repairs. This does not include desirable remodelling or additions.

The 'regular maintenance needed' category includes dwellings where only regular maintenance such as painting or furnace cleaning is required. The 'minor repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing only minor repairs such as dwellings with missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles; or defective steps, railing or siding. The 'major repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings (Statistics Canada, 2021a).

- In 2021, 10.7% of occupied private dwellings across the RSA were categorized as requiring major repairs.

Figure 5-80: Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition in Regional Study Area (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-66: Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition in Regional Study Area (2021)

Dwelling Condition	Count	Distribution
Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	110,015	89.3%
Major repairs needed	13,190	10.7%
Total	**123,205**	**100%**

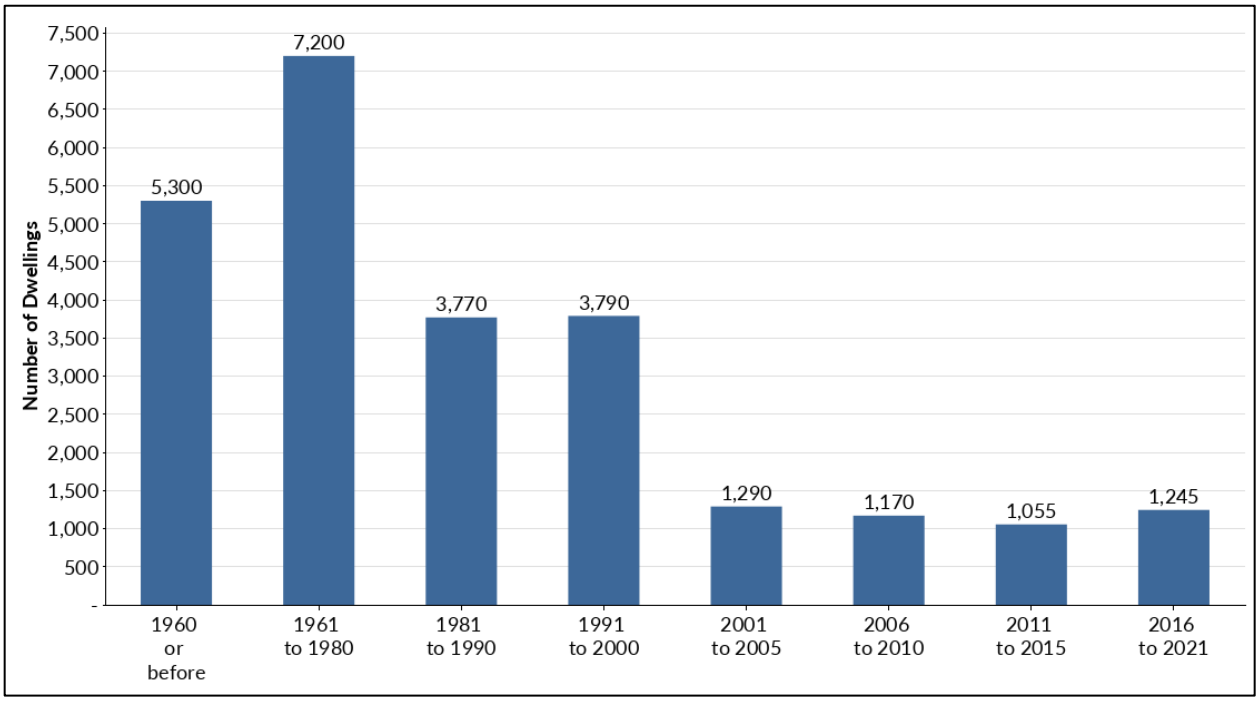
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.3.1 Kenora District

Figure 5-81 and **Table 5-67** present the total number of occupied private dwellings by period of construction from 1960 up to 2021 in the Kenora District, and is summarized below:

- Dwellings constructed during the period from 1961 to 1980 is the largest group with 29% of private dwellings being built during this period;
- Dwellings constructed during the period from 2011 to 2015 is the smallest group with 4.3% of private dwellings being built during this period;
- 80.8% of the occupied private dwellings in the Kenora District were constructed during or prior to 2000; and
- Over the last two decades, 4,760 dwellings were constructed which comprises less than 20% of the occupied housing stock.

Figure 5-81: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction from 1960 to 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-67: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction from 1960 to 2021

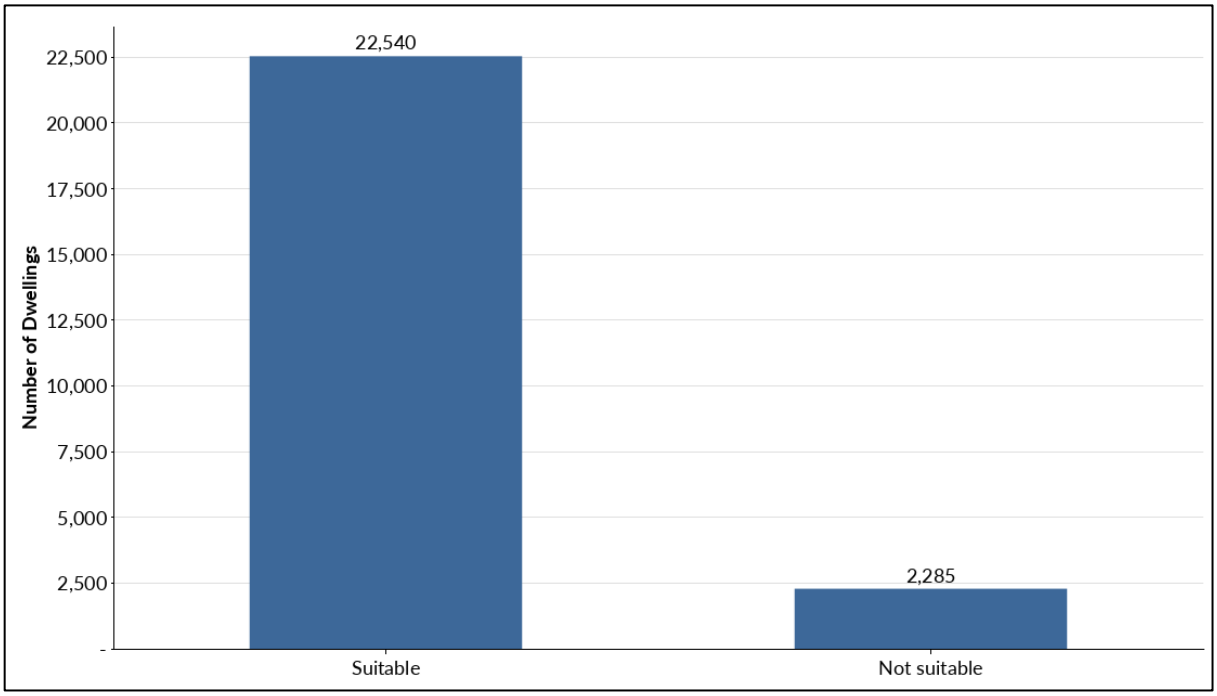
Construction Period	Count	Distribution
1960 or before	5,300	21.4%
1961 to 1980	7,200	29.0%
1981 to 1990	3,770	15.2%
1991 to 2000	3,790	15.3%
2001 to 2005	1,290	5.2%
2006 to 2010	1,170	4.7%
2011 to 2015	1,055	4.3%
2016 to 2021	1,245	5.0%
Total	**24,820**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-82 and **Table 5-68** present the suitability of the occupied private dwellings in the Kenora District for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “suitable” or “unsuitable”. Housing suitability asses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members (Statistics Canada, 2017b). The suitability of the occupied private dwellings in the Kenora District for 2021 is summarized below:

- In 2021, 9.2% of the occupied private dwellings in the Kenora District were categorized as unsuitable.

Figure 5-82: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-68: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability, 2021

Suitability	Count	Distribution
Suitable	22,540	90.8%
Not suitable	2,285	9.2%
Total	**24,825**	**100%**

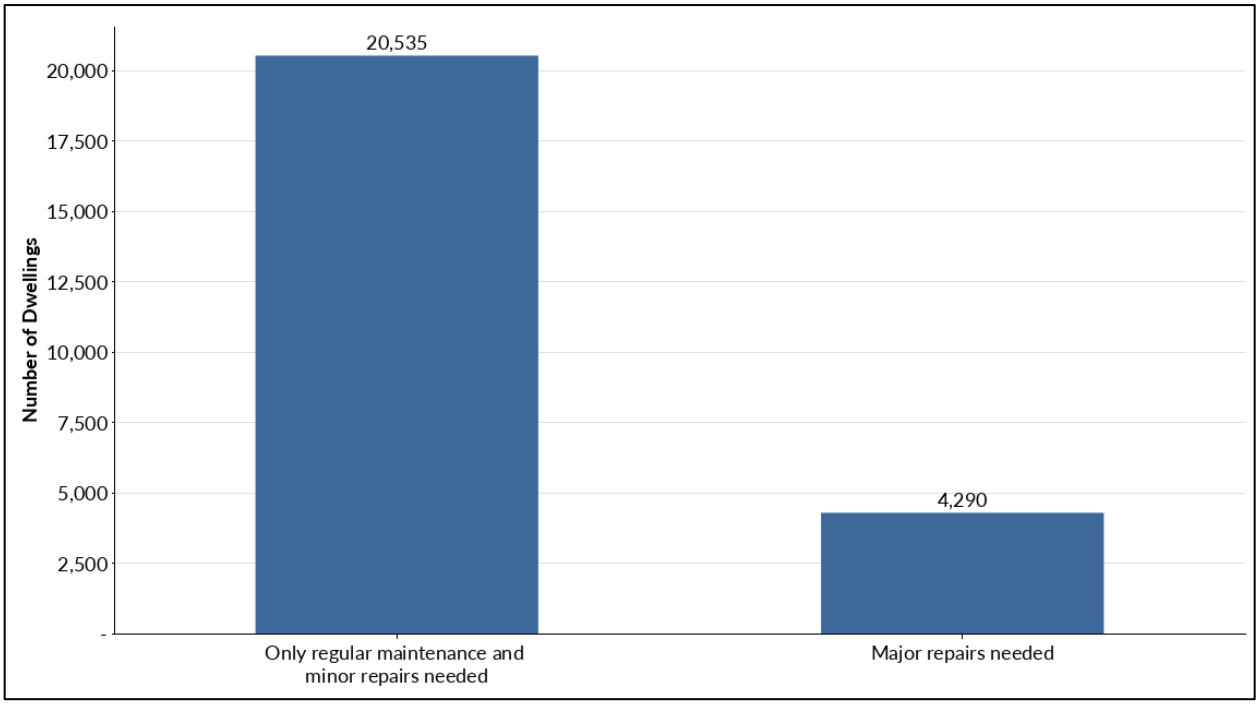
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-83 and **Table 5-69** present the conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the Kenora District for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed” or “major repairs needed”. Dwelling condition refers to whether the dwelling is in need of repairs. This does not include desirable remodelling or additions.

The 'regular maintenance needed' category includes dwellings where only regular maintenance such as painting, or furnace cleaning is required. The 'minor repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing only minor repairs such as dwellings with missing or loose floor tiles, bricks, or shingles; or defective steps, railing or siding. The 'major repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors, or ceilings (Statistics Canada, 2021a). The conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the Kenora District for 2021, is summarized below:

- In 2021, 17.3% of the occupied private dwellings in the Kenora District were categorized as requiring major repairs.

Figure 5-83: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-69: Kenora District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition, 2021

Dwelling Condition	Count	Distribution
Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	20,535	82.7%
Major repairs needed	4,290	17.3%
Total	**24,825**	**100%**

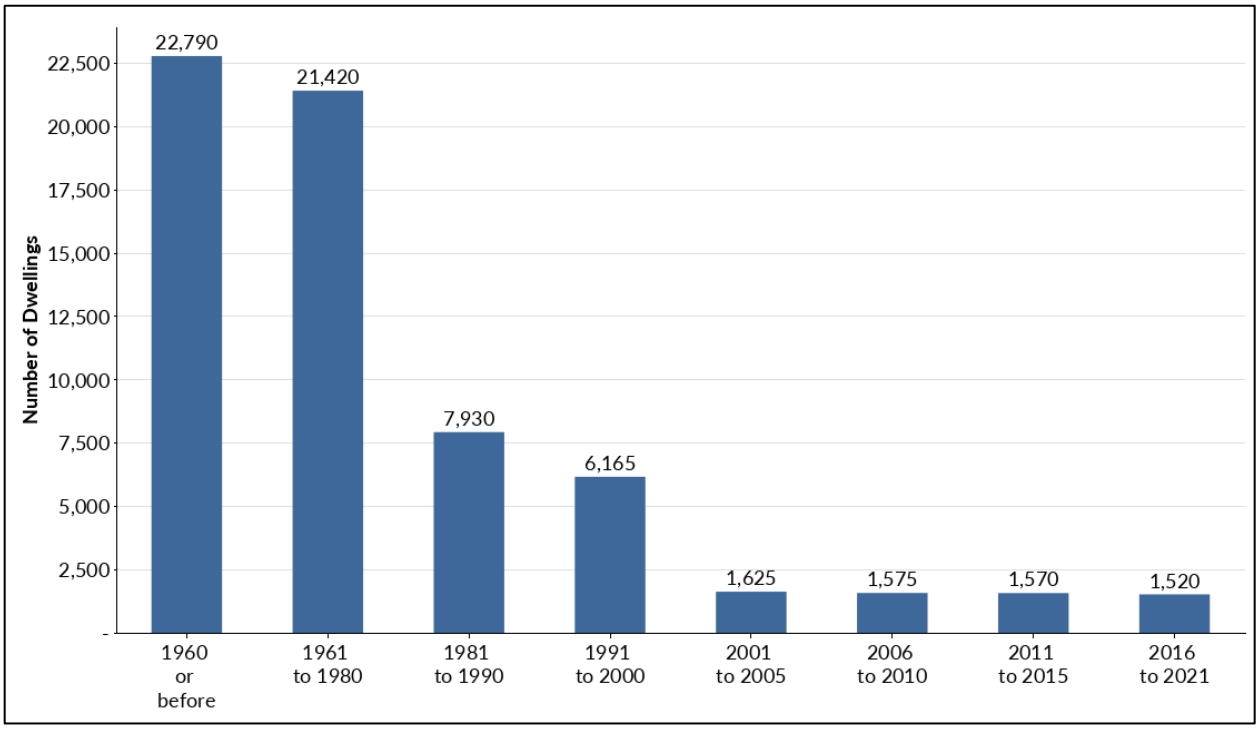
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.3.2 Thunder Bay District

Figure 5-84 and **Table 5-70** present the total number of occupied private dwellings by period of construction from 1960 up to 2021 in the Thunder Bay District, and is summarized below:

- Dwellings constructed during the period of 1960 or before is the largest group with 35.3% of private dwellings being built during this period;
- The four periods covering 2001 to 2021 are nearly evenly distributed and comprise 9.7% of occupied private dwellings;
- 90.3% of the occupied private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District were constructed during or prior to 2000; and
- Over the last two decades, 6,290 dwellings were constructed which accounts for less than 10% of the occupied housing stock.

Figure 5-84: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction from 1960 to 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-70: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction from 1960 to 2021

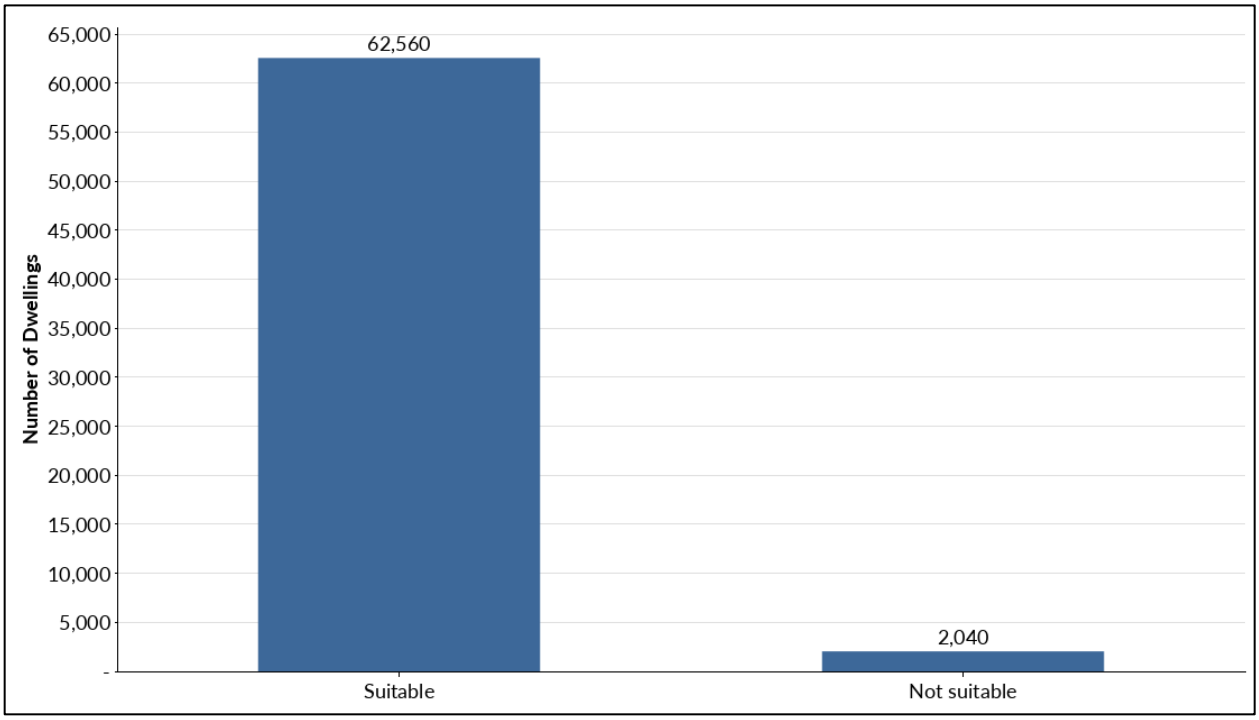
Construction Period	Count	Distribution
1960 or before	22,790	35.3%
1961 to 1980	21,420	33.2%
1981 to 1990	7,930	12.3%
1991 to 2000	6,165	9.5%
2001 to 2005	1,625	2.5%
2006 to 2010	1,575	2.4%
2011 to 2015	1,570	2.4%
2016 to 2021	1,520	2.4%
Total	**64,595**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-85 and **Table 5-71** present the suitability of the occupied private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “suitable” or “unsuitable”. Housing suitability asses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members (Statistics Canada, 2017b). The suitability of the occupied private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District for 2021 is summarized below:

- In 2021, 3.2% of the occupied private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District were categorized as unsuitable.

Figure 5-85: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-71: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability (2021)

Suitability	Count	Distribution
Suitable	62,560	96.8%
Not suitable	2,040	3.2%
Total	**64,600**	**100%**

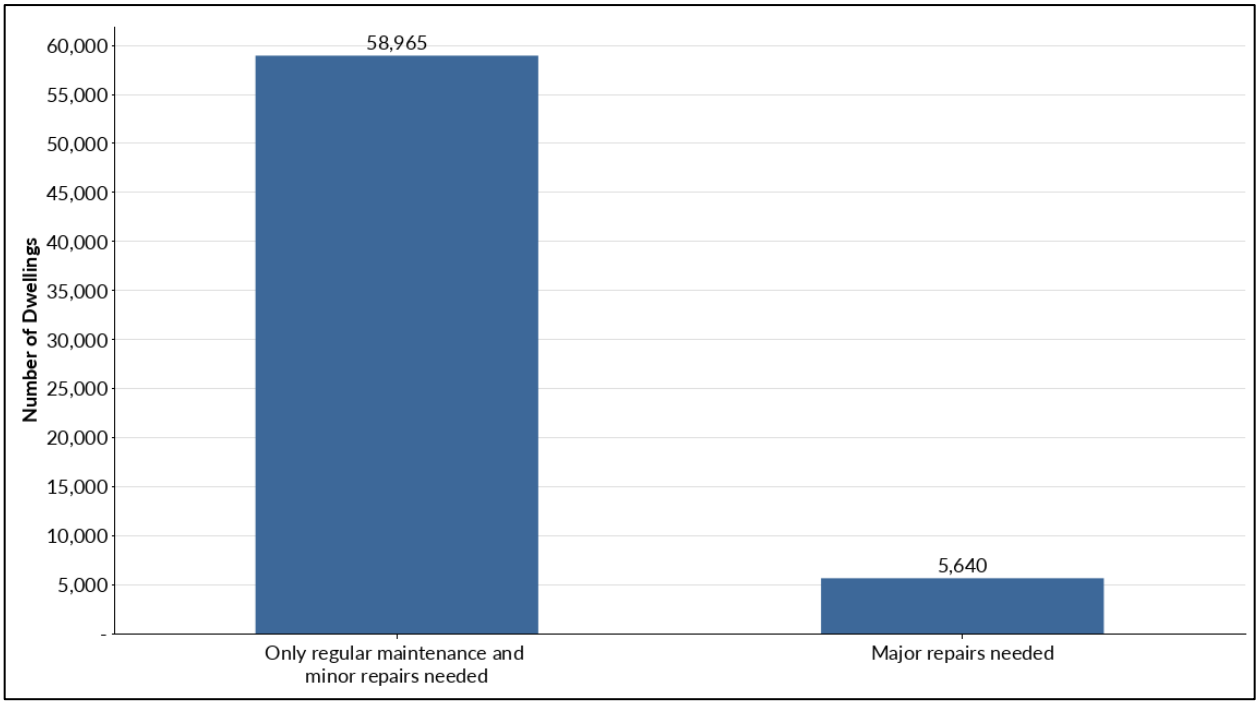
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-86 and **Table 5-72** present the conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed” or “major repairs needed”. Dwelling condition refers to whether the dwelling is in need of repairs. This does not include desirable remodelling or additions.

The 'regular maintenance needed' category includes dwellings where only regular maintenance such as painting, or furnace cleaning is required. The 'minor repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing only minor repairs such as dwellings with missing or loose floor tiles, bricks, or shingles; or defective steps, railing or siding. The 'major repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings (Statistics Canada, 2021a). The conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District for 2021 is summarised below:

- In 2021, 8.7% of occupied private dwellings in the Thunder Bay District were categorized as requiring major repairs.

Figure 5-86: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-72: Thunder Bay District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition (2021)

Dwelling Condition	Count	Distribution
Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	58,965	91.3%
Major repairs needed	5,640	8.7%
Total	**64,605**	**100%**

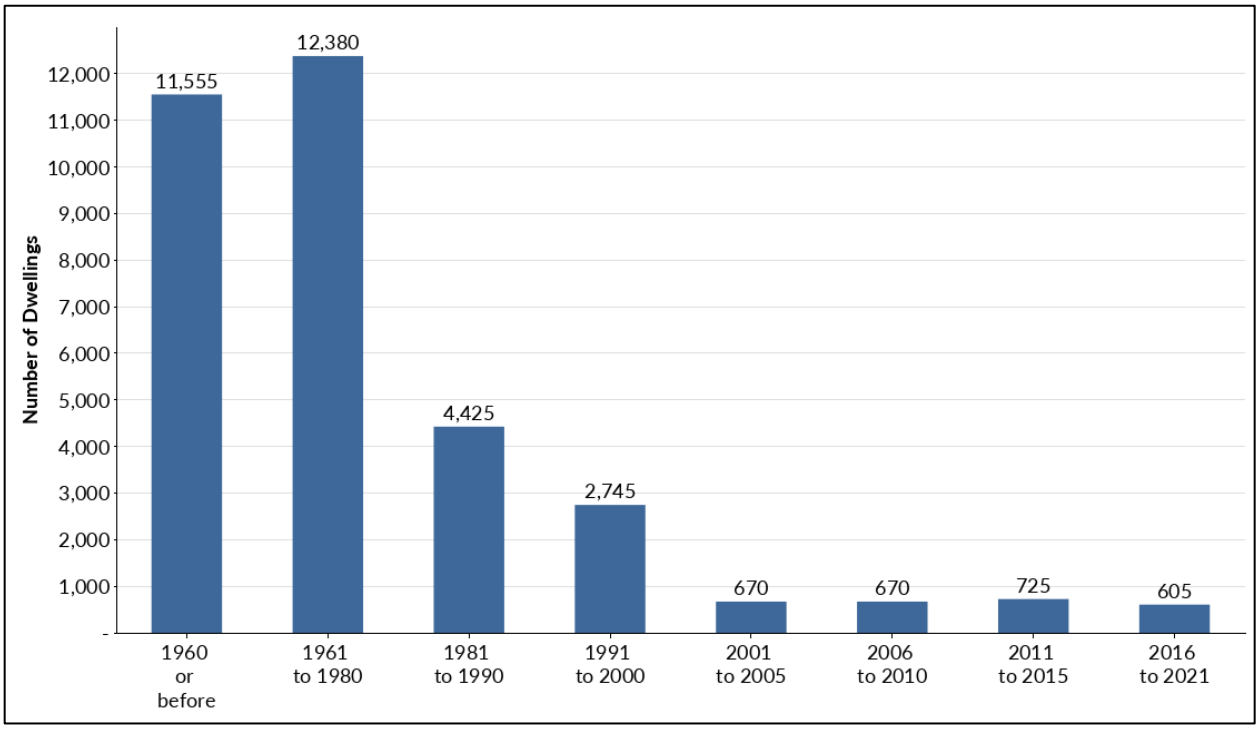
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.2.2.3.3 Cochrane District

Figure 5-87 and **Table 5-73** present the total occupied private dwellings by period of construction for the Cochrane District in 2021. Information on dwelling construction in Cochrane District from 1960 up to 2021 is summarized as follows:

- Dwellings constructed during the period from 1961 to 1980 is the largest group with 36.7% of private dwellings being built during this period.
- Dwellings constructed during the period from 2016 to 2021 is the smallest group with 1.8% of private dwellings being built during this period.
- 92.1% of the occupied private dwellings in the Cochrane District were constructed during or prior to 2000.
- Over the last two decades, 2,670 dwellings were constructed which accounts for approximately 8% of the occupied housing stock.

Figure 5-87: Cochrane District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction from 1960 to 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-73: Cochrane District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction from 1960 to 2021

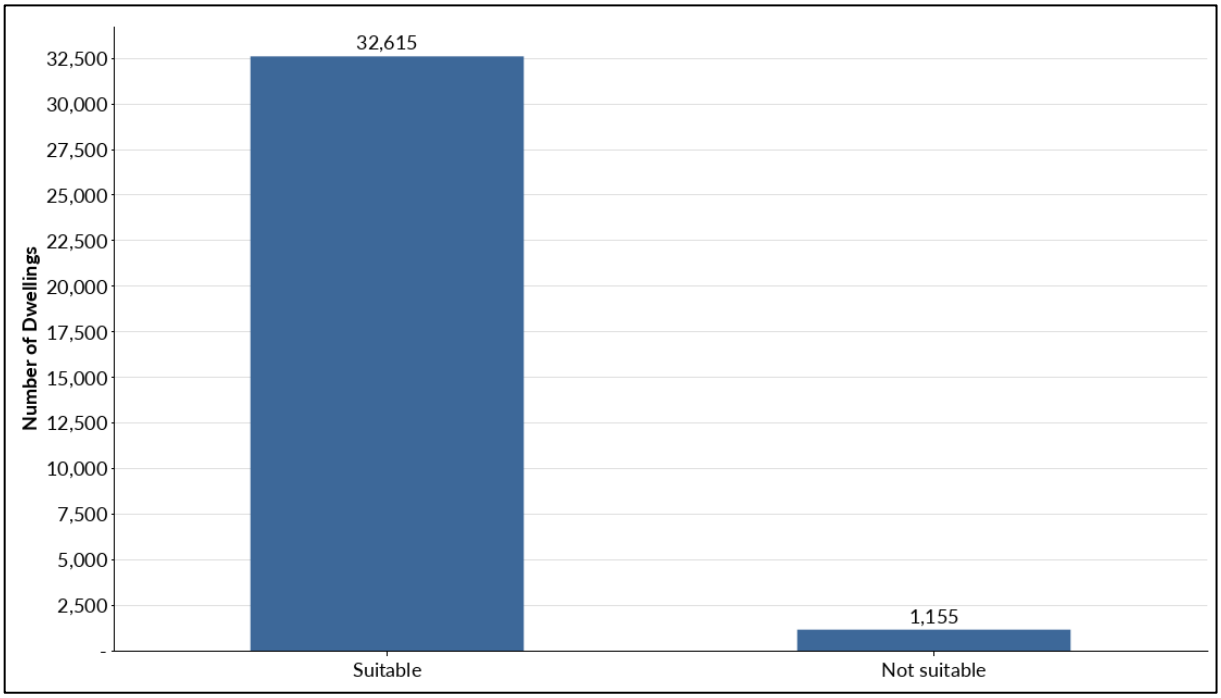
Construction Period	Count	Distribution
1960 or before	11,555	34.2%
1961 to 1980	12,380	36.7%
1981 to 1990	4,425	13.1%
1991 to 2000	2,745	8.1%
2001 to 2005	670	2.0%
2006 to 2010	670	2.0%
2011 to 2015	725	2.1%
2016 to 2021	605	1.8%
Total	**33,775**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-88 and **Table 5-74** present the suitability of the occupied private dwellings the Cochrane District for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “suitable” or “unsuitable”. Housing suitability asses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members (Statistics Canada, 2017b). The suitability of the occupied private dwellings the Cochrane District for 2021 is summarized below:

- In 2021, 3.4% of the occupied private dwellings in the Cochrane District were categorized as unsuitable.

Figure 5-88: Cochrane District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-74: Cochrane District – Occupied Private Dwellings by Suitability (2021)

Suitability	Count	Distribution
Suitable	32,615	96.6%
Not suitable	1,155	3.4%
Total	**33,770**	**100%**

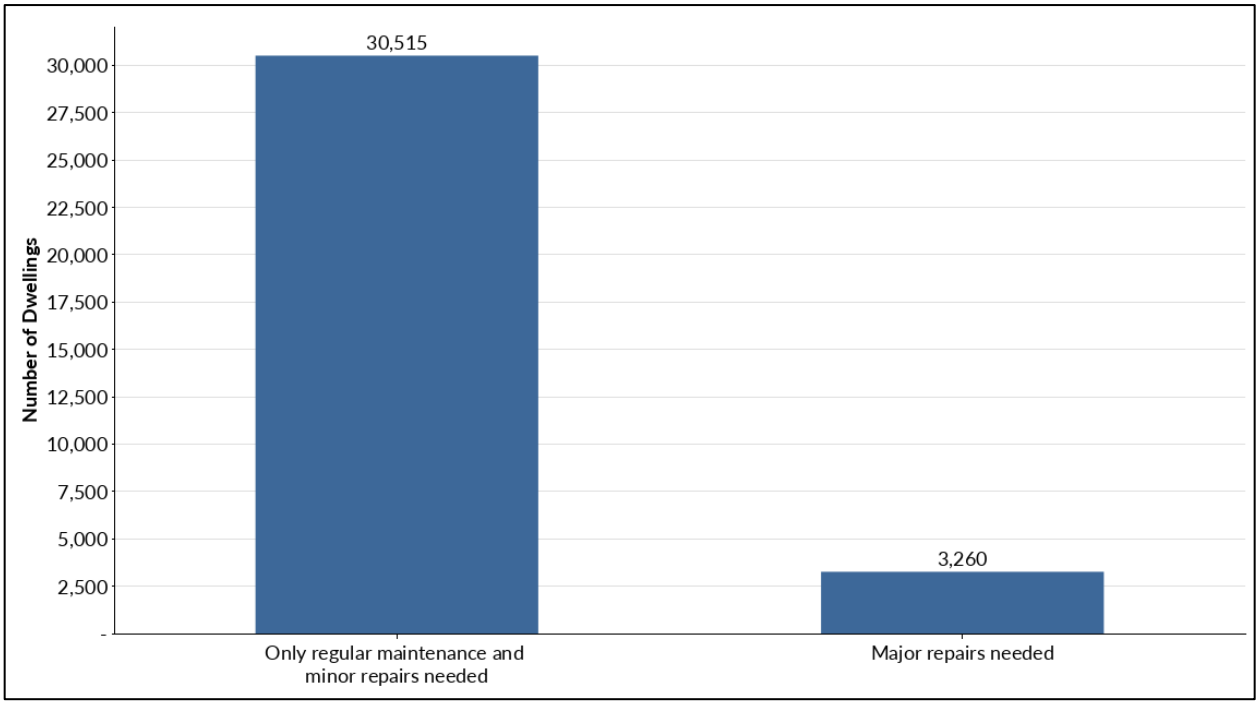
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 5-89 and **Table 5-75** present the conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the Cochrane District for 2021. Dwellings are categorized as either “only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed” or “major repairs needed”. Dwelling condition refers to whether the dwelling is in need of repairs. This does not include desirable remodelling or additions.

The 'regular maintenance needed' category includes dwellings where only regular maintenance such as painting, or furnace cleaning is required. The 'minor repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing only minor repairs such as dwellings with missing or loose floor tiles, bricks, or shingles; or defective steps, railing or siding. The 'major repairs needed' category includes dwellings needing major repairs such as dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings (Statistics Canada, 2021a). The conditions of the occupied private dwellings in the Cochrane District for 2021 is summarized below:

- In 2021, 9.7% of occupied private dwellings in the Cochrane District were categorized as requiring major repairs.

Figure 5-89: Cochrane District Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 5-75: Occupied Private Dwellings by Dwelling Condition in Cochrane District (2021)

Dwelling Condition	Count	Distribution
Only regular maintenance and minor repairs needed	30,515	90.3%
Major repairs needed	3,260	9.7%
Total	**33,775**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

5.3 Community Services

Community services are a significant issue in remote communities because many services that are required by community members need to be accessed outside the community or are only available intermittently within the community. Historically, remote Indigenous communities have been under-serviced, which has had detrimental effects on the health and well-being of community members. Some of the most vulnerable people in the community have difficulty accessing services outside the community due to health and financial factors The Socio-Economic Baseline provides information that will enable the assessment of effects on Community Services. The community services in the LSA and RSA are described in this section using the following indicators:

- Demand for community services; and
- Supply and capacity of community services.

These indicators were selected to provide an understanding of the community services that currently exist and the community services essential for the community (e.g., health care). The existing conditions of community services in the LSA and RSA are described in this section, including family, child, Elders, health, cultural, recreational, and communications services. The locations in the LSA where data were collected include Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation. Data were collected for Indigenous communities in the RSA, including the Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakepewin First Nation, and Wunnumin First Nation. Housing and accommodation data in municipalities, cities, and towns within the RSA were also collected, including Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins, Greenstone, and Pickle Lake. The information presented in this section will help identify under-serviced communities and the services that are lacking in those communities.

5.3.1 Local Study Area

The LSA Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following Community Services where information is available:

- Family Services;
- Child Care and Youth Programs;
- Elder Care;
- Health Services;
- Cultural Services; and
- Communication Services.

Since the communities are currently fly-in and winter road access, the in-community services are generally limited, and many services are provided outside of the community in regional service centres, such as Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay and Timmins. The Community Services provided reflect the need for basic services in communities. Where information is available, community input indicates a general need expressed for many services to address Socio-Economic challenges experienced within the communities. Input from communities through the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program is important to provide firsthand qualitative input on sentiments on Community Services, and this information continues to be gathered.

Community Legal Workers, provided through NAN, are available to support NAN members by offering legal, paralegal, and other law-related services. Community Legal Workers usually are the first point of contact for legal matters, and they assist in finding legal aid and lawyers. Although there are offices in Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins and Kenora, Community Legal Workers sometimes work from a First Nation community as well (Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services, 2024a). These services are present for Webequie First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Attawapiskat First Nation.

Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services also provide ‘Public Legal Education’ services via community visits, clinic days, career fairs, workshops, presentations, newsletters, website, promotions and booth displays. The Public Legal Education program works to improve access to and knowledge of the law and the justice system (Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services, N.D).

5.3.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Information has been collected principally from online sources, such as the Webequie First Nation website (Webequie.ca) and 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario, focused on Indigenous communities such as Webequie. The Socio-Economic Baseline also incorporates information obtained through the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program, which includes data collected from knowledge holder interviews, focus groups with diverse groups, and Socio-Economic surveys.

5.3.1.1.1 Family Services

Tikinagan, a social services organization, provides child and family services for Webequie First Nation. It is Ontario's largest residential services provider, covering approximately one third of the province and serving 30 Indigenous communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, the Ministry of Community and Social Services with the Band Council designated Tikinagan to provide child protection services to families from Thunder Bay district (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

The name "Tikinagan" derives from the Anishinaabe word for cradle, symbolizing the organization's mission. Elder craftswomen and craftsmen still make unique cradleboards in communities today. Tikinagan was established to offer culturally specific child and family services, recognizing the harm caused by support services provided from outside Indigenous communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

The services provided by Tikinagan are culturally responsive, respecting traditional values and customs. The "Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin" model guides service delivery, emphasizing consultation with community Elders for wisdom and direction, including First Nations Chief and Council involvement in case management decisions (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, "Neegan Inabin" for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means 'looking forward' in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e). The authority to remove a childe from the home rests solely with Chief and Council

Tikinagan aims to keep children in their home communities whenever possible. If necessary, foster homes are located nearby to minimize the distance from home and maintain familiarity. In Webequie, Tikinagan supports youth, women, and families, addressing personal, household-related, and community-wide issues such as substance abuse, housing shortage, poverty, and lack of daycare (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Accessing Tikinagan services is hindered by concerns about confidentiality. Community members believe their personal information may not be kept private. The community has expressed the need for a dedicated facility which is separate from the current building shared with other services, such as banking and groceries, to enhance comfort in seeking assistance.

An online survey for on reserve community members revealed that 29% of 131 respondents lacked access to food distribution programs. Additionally, 13.7% had access but chose not to utilize these programs. Among those who accessed and used food distribution programs, the majority (35.9% of respondents) reported doing so on a yearly basis (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

5.3.1.1.2 Child Care & Youth Programs

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is dedicated to providing comprehensive parenting support and fostering healthy child development. It specifically caters to children under 6 years old in Webequie. This program offers a range of valuable supports and resources (211north.ca, 2023a).

These supports include group information and educational sessions that cover essential topics such as healthy pregnancy, childbirth, and caring for babies at home. The program also provides valuable information on the different stages of pregnancy and equips parents with additional early parenthood literature.

To secure continued assistance, program participants receive follow-up telephone calls 48 hours after their hospital discharge. Additionally, trained professionals conduct home visits both before and after birth, offering vital support to new mothers and assisting in early childhood development. Referrals to other relevant programs and services are also provided.

While many parents have benefited from this program, it has faced challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, concerns persist regarding dental services for both infants and mothers, as the community's current dental services fail to meet established guidelines (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

Webequie's sole preschool program is the Aboriginal Head Start Program, catering to children aged 4 and under. Consequently, once children complete this program, they have no further options for formal childcare within the community (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b). Notably, there is currently no childcare program available in Webequie.

The Choose Life Program is specifically designed for youth aged 7 to 17 years. It focuses on land-related activities such as fish netting, moose hunting, and canoeing. Elders play an active role in the program, sharing their knowledge and teachings while engaging with the youth on the land (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

Webequie First Nation Health Director has expressed concern about the availability and adequacy of programs aimed at ensuring children's safety and well-being within the community. It was suggested that the existing programs might not fully meet the specific needs and desires of the community, highlighting a potential gap between reported programs and community expectations. While programs like Jordan's Principle and provincial early years programs were acknowledged, the interviewee implied that they may not entirely fulfill the community's requirements for child safety and support. Furthermore, these programs only receive partial recognition in terms of funding and tribunals (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

These concerns align with the findings of an online survey conducted in 2022, which collected data from individuals residing on reserve. The survey revealed that 68% of respondents (83 out of 122 respondents) reported a lack of access to childcare. Among the requested services, childcare ranked as the most desired by the community, with 110 out of 146 responses indicating the need for childcare services (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Youth services also faced challenges, with a significant portion of respondents stating either a lack of access (36.1% of respondents) or access without utilization (33.6% of respondents). Additionally, 31.2% of respondents reported no access to Jordan's Principle, while 47.2% had access but did not use it. Among those with access to Jordan's Principle, the majority (8.8% of respondents) utilized it on a monthly basis (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Access to education programs for students with special needs, including individual education plans, also raised concerns. The survey indicated that 40.5% of respondents (49 out of 121 respondents) did not have access to these programs, while 37.2% had access but did not utilize them. Among those who did utilize these programs, the majority used them on a daily (7.4% of respondents) or yearly basis (6.6% of respondents) (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

These survey findings further support the Former Health Director's viewpoint regarding the gaps and limitations in existing programs, emphasizing the need for more comprehensive and accessible services to address the diverse needs of the Webequie community.

5.3.1.1.3 Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care (FNIHCC) program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services.

However, the community lacks a long-term Elder care facility. Instead, community staff conduct home visits to assist with household tasks, personal care, and transportation as needed (SNC-Lavalin, 2022c). When more intensive care is required, Elders with identified care needs are often compelled to seek services outside the community, primarily in Thunder Bay.

Interviews revealed that having appropriate local facilities would enable Elders to receive care within the community, alleviating the need to travel to Thunder Bay (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b). The establishment of local facilities would also facilitate easier road travel for Elders and individuals with special needs, eliminating the current reliance on flights (SNC-Lavalin, 2022c).

The lack of suitable facilities poses challenges for young families who struggle to care for their parents, resulting in Elders being sent to retirement facilities in Thunder Bay, which can be financially burdensome. The expenses associated with accommodation and care in Thunder Bay may surpass the means of the individual or their family. Moreover, specific medical requirements such as dialysis treatment are unavailable in the community. Even portable dialysis machines necessitate trained personnel and incur significant transportation costs. The pressing need for a comprehensive health centre that includes a retirement home, nursing station, and full-time doctor is apparent to address the healthcare needs of the community (SNC-Lavalin, 2022d).

The concerns raised in the interviews are supported by the findings of an online survey conducted with individuals residing on reserve. The survey revealed that 66.7% of respondents (78 out of 117 respondents) reported a lack of access to Elder care. When asked about desired social services for Webequie First Nation members, Elder care service ranked as the second most requested service after childcare service, with 104 out of 146 responses emphasizing the need for Elder care (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

The findings of the survey underscore the urgent requirement for suitable facilities and comprehensive healthcare services to address the unique needs of the community's aging population.

5.3.1.1.4 Health Services

Crisis Intervention

Crisis Intervention provides immediate support to individuals affected by family violence and suicide within the Webequie First Nation. Their services are readily available either on-site or via telephone, and if necessary, they can promptly dispatch the police. Their primary focus is on ensuring the safety of victims while offering them compassionate support and assistance. Additionally, Crisis Intervention facilitates meetings with family members to explore potential resolutions for the crisis at hand. They also play a crucial role in coordinating crisis plans for suicide and domestic violence intervention, as well as managing other types of crisis situations that may arise in the community. Furthermore, Crisis Intervention provides vital information and referrals to appropriate resources and services (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023a).

Health and Social Services

The Health Services programs in Webequie strive to promote the physical and mental well-being of community members. They achieve this by coordinating a dedicated team comprising three community health nurses/nurse practitioners, one community health representative, and two full-time counselors. The organization offers physician consultations twice a month through a visiting physician from Sioux Lookout. Moreover, Health Services conducts health awareness and counseling sessions, educational workshops, and preventive programs on various topics such as diabetes, alcohol/drug abuse, sexual health, and communicable diseases. They also coordinate clinics and workshops related to diabetes management, immunization, sexual health, and communicable diseases (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023b).

However, community interviews have revealed that the absence of a full-time doctor and reliance on rotating nurses create a need for more consistent healthcare provision. The isolated geographic location of the area poses challenges to the delivery of clinical services. Transportation delays, particularly during winter, can result in delayed service and, in severe cases, loss of life. To address these issues, there is a pressing need for an improved facility with enhanced equipment to provide adequate care for patients, including overnight accommodation (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

Consequently, the lack of timely and sufficient healthcare has led to the loss of numerous community members, generating frustration among both the community and their families. This deficiency in healthcare services and government support has eroded confidence in the system. Additionally, the community lacks essential emergency services such as ambulances and fire trucks. Multiple unmet needs persist, making it crucial to establish a healthy and thriving community instead of one constantly grappling with challenges (SNC-Lavalin, 2022d).

The Health Director, during the Webequie Knowledge holder Interview in 2022, highlighted the high rates of diabetes in the community and emphasized the importance of prevention and management. They mentioned complications faced by community members with diabetes in urban settings, including amputations and vision loss. Other prevalent health issues mentioned were hypertension, arthritis, and various types of cancer such as breast, ovarian, and colon cancer, which have witnessed an upward trend over time. The Health Director further expressed concern about the intergenerational trauma resulting from the residential school system. They specifically mentioned the schools attended by affected community members and expressed worry about missing individuals, including their own family members. According to the Health Director, mental health and addiction issues in the community often stem from the lasting trauma caused by residential schools. Some individuals seek help independently, while others engage in land-based activities and exercises to address and cope with this trauma (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

Mental Health Services

Mental health services, including counseling, are available in Webequie. According to the Webequie Knowledge holder Interview with the former Health Director in 2022, mental health services have faced challenges, including tragic losses of life. Funding has been secured to address these mental health service issues, particularly in responding to crisis situations. However, limited resources in terms of call availability and the number of responders put a strain on the dedicated workers who tirelessly operate around the clock without breaks (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

The Health Director, during the Webequie Knowledge holder Interview in 2022, emphasized the significant need for mental health and addiction services, particularly related to prescription drug addiction, within Webequie First Nation. These issues have been prevalent among community members aged 18 to 58 years. The Health Director stressed that addiction affects both men and women and can be linked to childhood experiences, such as parental addiction, violence, or separation.

To address these challenges, Webequie First Nation currently offers a suboxone program for treating opioid addiction and plans to renovate a building into a detox centre to provide additional support services. The Health Director highlighted the prominence of mental health challenges, including suicidal ideation, within the community. They emphasized the urgent need for more qualified local mental health counselors, as community members currently have

to seek help outside the community. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated mental health and addiction issues, in particular with young girls requiring significant treatment for mental health concerns and potential referrals to specialized treatment centres. The Health Director mentioned that proposals are submitted for community members to access mental health treatment centres, with an increase in submissions observed from September to November (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

Home and Community Care – Physiotherapy Services

The Home and Community Care program in Webequie provides in-home rehabilitative care to individuals who require assistance in maintaining or regaining their independence. The physiotherapy services offered can be provided either at the client's home or at the nursing station, depending on their specific needs. These services encompass physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and case management. Eligibility for these services is determined based on the individual's specific needs and requirements (211north.ca, 2023b).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The deep-rooted intergenerational trauma experienced in Webequie First Nation has resulted in drug use and addiction, emphasizing the urgent need for healing to foster economic development and progress (SNC-Lavalin, 2022f).

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program plays a crucial role in providing support to individuals and families grappling with addiction issues. Through initiatives such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings, the program offers a platform for assistance and transportation services to all gatherings and workshops upon request. Additionally, preventive measures include public seminars, educational sessions in schools, and the organization of cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program further facilitates recreational activities, group discussions, and cultural gatherings to aid in recovery. Aftercare services encompass counseling, support groups, sharing circles, regular phone calls, home visits, and referrals to detoxification and medical assistance when needed (211north.ca, 2023c).

The significance of addressing addiction and promoting mental well-being is underscored by survey data collected from Webequie First Nation community members. Out of 124 respondents, 23.4% expressed a lack of access to Choose Life/Suicide Prevention programs, while 39.5% reported having access but not utilizing them. Among those who did use these programs, a majority (11.3%) engaged with them on a monthly basis (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

In terms of traditional healing programs, 18.7% of the 139 respondents highlighted their unavailability, while 31% confirmed having access but not utilizing them. Among those who utilized traditional healing programs, the majority participated on a monthly (21.6%) or yearly (17.3%) basis (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). These statistics shed light on the need to verify accessibility and utilization of support services to promote healing and well-being within the Webequie First Nation community (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following (Matawa First Nation, 2023a):

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;
- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming.

The 4-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (Matawa First Nation, 2023a).

Services provided include:

- Safe and supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House Addictions Crisis Worker and Youth Residential Worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services are offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental Wellness Team & Crisis Support Services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families, or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support, and care coordination. The program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies & equipment, medical transportation, eye & vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are ones usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the nine Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC)

Incorporated in 2017, the Matawa Health Co-operative (MHC) is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and wellbeing for all members within the 9 Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada. The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes, and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

5.3.1.1.5 Cultural Services

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program, an initiative by the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, is dedicated to supporting Indigenous communities in developing and delivering culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. With a focus on empowering families and enhancing overall community health, the program offers a range of activities and initiatives. These include language revitalization, alcohol and drug abuse prevention and intervention, community events such as feasts, family circles, counseling and support groups for children and youth, referrals to other programs and services, school programs, and traditional land-based healing events. The program strives to address issues such as family violence, youth involvement in the justice system, and the number of children in care (211north.ca, 2023d).

Despite the existing services, community interviews revealed a lack of support for families with children experiencing developmental delays, resulting in caregiver burnout and a need for respite services. While Thunder Bay offers resources for caregiver support and medication management, these services are not available in the community. This support gap extends beyond Webequie First Nation and requires attention from NAN to address the needs of multiple communities (SNC--Lavalin, 2022f). Moreover, women may be hesitant to seek services due to the fear of judgment and concerns about revealing their access to resources. It is crucial to promote the idea that seeking help is a healthy and acceptable choice. The judgmental attitudes within the community may stem from intergenerational trauma caused by the residential school system, where individuals were taught to feel ashamed. Healing from this trauma is essential for the future well-being of the community, as it involves reclaiming identities and alleviating the guilt associated with cultural beliefs (SNC-Lavalin, 2022f).

Culture and language knowledge transfer is an important focus for the Webequie community. This focus is supported by the newly established Cultural Enrichment Department (2020) and health and wellness programs (Webequie First Nation, 2023f).

In an online survey conducted by AtkinsRéalis to gather data from individuals living on reserve, 27.6% of respondents (35 out of 127) reported not having access to wellness counseling, while 34.7% (44 out of 127) indicated having access but not utilizing it. Among respondents who had access and utilized wellness counseling, the majority (33 out of 127) reported using it on a monthly basis (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). These results emphasize the need to secure access and utilization of wellness counseling services for the well-being of the community.

5.3.1.1.6 Communications Services

Communications

Webequie First Nation community has various communication channels available to its residents. Canada Post operates in Webequie five days a week, providing postal services to the community. Bell Canada offers digital telephone services, allowing residents to make and receive calls. For news, residents can access Wawatay newspaper, which is published monthly, or Sioux Bulletin, which is published weekly. In terms of radio, Webequie residents can tune in to the local station, C.S.P.N. radio, or Wawatay radio, which is available via satellite. Finally, Webequie telecommunications offers internet services through a cable network, allowing residents to stay connected with the rest of the world (Webequie First Nation, 2023c).

Webequie First Nation obtains internet support through Rapid Lynx broadband project under Matawa First Nations Management (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022a). The project was initiated in 2020 for Phase I, which included improving and enhancing internet services across five communities: Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie with interconnection at Aroland. The connection will be fibre optic, and Aroland First Nation will host one of the main connection points/ Point of Presence to connect to the fibre optic backbone network; and following completion of the network and community distribution networks in the five First Nations, the Rapid Lynx

backbone network will be connected from Aroland First Nation to Ginoogaming First Nation's 'Internet Gateway' (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022b).

Webequie telecommunications offers internet services through a cable network which is now connected by fibre optic cable (Webequie First Nation, 2023c).

Webequie Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO) Telehealth

Webequie First Nation KO telehealth has been operational since June 2005, providing health services to the community through the use of internet broadband technology. With this telehealth service, residents of Webequie can access health specialists in major cities such as Toronto, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, and other areas. The band has hired a Community Telehealth Coordinator to provide telehealth services to the community, ensuring that members have access to quality healthcare; however, the limitations of the virtual diagnoses and lack of proper internet services access are prominent (Webequie First Nation, 2023d).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas. Critical patients who require immediate medical attention are airlifted by air ambulance to hospitals in Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay or Winnipeg (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023b).

5.3.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

5.3.1.2.1 Attawapiskat First Nation

Community Services information for Attawapiskat First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario. To-date, Attawapiskat First Nation has not confirmed that it wishes to undertake Socio-Economic primary data collection.

Family Services

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Indigenous languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023a).

Child Care

Child and Family Services

The Child and Family Services department is responsible for delivering childcare and protection services as well as family support services to members of the Attawapiskat First Nation community. The department administers services to Payukotayno Child and Family Services, which is a mandated Indigenous child welfare agency. The prevention services provided by the department include teaching parenting skills, developing healthy social and recreational programs for families, hosting community forums to address various issues, organizing Elders' meetings that address

traditional child rearing methods, and providing information sessions about understanding substance dependency and family violence. The department also offers repatriation services, which involve processing requests to bring children in external foster care back to their community and providing advocacy on behalf of the child and family (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023b).

Elder Care

Home Care and Community Health

Home Care and Community Health offers healthcare services for ill, injured, seniors and Elders of the Attawapiskat First Nation community in the comfort of their own homes (211 Ontario North, 2023au).

Funding and advice for senior and Elder care is provided by Indigenous Services Canada under the FNIHCC program. It aims to develop home and community care services to Indigenous people living in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). The FNIHCC program covers First Nations persons living on-reserve and having been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program focuses on services, such as:

- Client need, case management and care coordination;
- In-home respite care and temporary care;
- Nursing care planning; and
- Personal care management.

Health Services

Neepeeshowan Midwives

The Neepeeshowan Midwives offer a range of prenatal, postnatal and labour and delivery services to all pregnant women in the Attawapiskat First Nation community. They have admitting privileges at Weeneebayko Area Health Authority and provide skilled physical and emotional support during labour, clinical monitoring after birth and collaborate with other health professionals if concerns arise during pregnancy, birth or postpartum. The program also provides access to midwifery education when possible. The term ‘Neepeeshowan’ means a blooming flower in Cree. Attawapiskat community experiences around 50 births per year. Eligibility is limited to female members of Attawapiskat First Nation and Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) communities experiencing low-risk pregnancy. High-risk pregnancies are flown out of the community at 38 weeks (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023c).

Health Clinic

The Health Clinic offers services that focus on promoting physical and mental health for members of the Attawapiskat First Nation community. The clinic coordinates outpatient health care services through visiting health professionals, including Home Care and Community Health Nurses, and weekly visits from a physician. It provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops, as well as a Midwifery Program and mental health and addictions services. The clinic also coordinates clinics for various health areas, including Diabetes, Immunization, Sexual Health, and Communicable Diseases. Additionally, it provides a full range of dental treatment through the WAHA. The clinic addresses individual health care needs by providing advocacy on behalf of individuals with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one prenatal care with the Community Health Nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers, and persons with healthcare needs, as well as assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211north.ca, 2023au).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program provides assistance and support to individuals and families in Attawapiskat First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023d).

Diabetes Program

The Diabetes Program provides education, prevention, management and treatment services for Attawapiskat First Nation individuals living with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes. The program is offered through the Weeneebayko Diabetes Education Program, which is administered by the WAHA. In addition to case management and screening services, the program also provides basic foot care services and aims to reduce the number of avoidable complications that can arise from uncontrolled diabetes. The program also offers advice on developing and implementing an approach to care and management of diabetes and assists individuals in finding appropriate services (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023e).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families experiencing high health care costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Attawapiskat First Nation aged 16-65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023f).

Internet Connectivity

Currently there is no fixed broadband internet available in Attawapiskat First Nation, but internet connection with less than 5/1 Mbps is available throughout the community (Connected North, 2023).

5.3.1.2.2 Eabametoong First Nation

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Eabametoong First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Eabametoong Council to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. This recognizes that previously support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e). An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that the authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care rests with Chief and Council (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Child Care

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Eabametoong First Nation families with children under 6 years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children’s library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48-hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child’s early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023a).

Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development program is designed to enhance school readiness for preschool children who are members of Eabametoong First Nation and six years of age and younger. The program offers a variety of school readiness programs, such as learning shapes and numbers, building vocabulary, and reading, to address the emotional, physical, cognitive, and spiritual development of children. The program also aims to culturally connect and spiritually root children in the traditional language and history of their family, community, and Nation. The program provides supervised indoor and outdoor playtime and gym activities, as well as afternoon snacks to confirm that the children’s needs are met (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023b).

Elder Care

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, and Elder members of the Eabametoong First Nation community in the comfort of their own homes. This service is provided by Case Managers/Nurses, Personal Support Workers, and Homemakers. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan, which is continuously monitored through case management to confirm its effectiveness. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023c).

Falls Prevention and Community Elder Exercise Program

The Falls Prevention and Community Elder Exercise Program offers classes to older adults and individuals with mobility issues or chronic conditions to prevent falls and injuries. The program is designed to improve strength and balance through classes run by a physiotherapist or other regulated healthcare provider. The aim is to promote safety and independence among participants. Eligibility for the program is open to Elders or others with chronic conditions who may benefit from these exercise classes (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023d).

Health Services

Home and Community Care – Physiotherapy Services

The Home and Community Care program provides in-home rehabilitative care to members of Eabametoong First Nation who need assistance in preserving or regaining their independence. The physiotherapy services offered may be provided either in the client's home or at the nursing station, depending on their needs. The services provided may include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and case management. Eligibility for these services is determined based on the individual's specific needs and requirements (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023e).

Crisis Intervention

The Crisis Intervention program offers immediate assistance to individuals of Eabametoong First Nation affected by family violence and suicide. This service provides on-site or telephone support and calls for police intervention when necessary. The crisis Intervention Program confirms that victims receive the necessary support and assistance to secure their safety. Additionally, they arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions and offer advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies. The service provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services. Furthermore, Crisis Intervention assists families in crisis situations, such as the suicide of a youth, with meal preparation, transportation, homemaking, and other areas requiring support (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023f).

Health Services

The Health Services Program are dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the Eabametoong First Nation community. They program provides education on health awareness and prevention to help individuals maintain good health. Health Services also coordinate with clinics that cover a range of services, including Blood Pressure, Immunization, Sexual Health, and Communicable Diseases. Moreover, they offer several programs such as the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Crisis Intervention, Detox Centre, Early Childhood Development, Family Well Being Program, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Home, and Community Care, and Medical Transportation Program. Through these programs, Health Services verifies that community members receive the necessary support and care they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023g).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provides assistance and support to individuals and families in Eabametoong First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023h).

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative provides education, screening, and case management for the prevention, management, and treatment of diabetes. The program works to reduce the number of avoidable complications that can arise from uncontrolled diabetes. It advises individuals on developing and implementing an approach to care and management of diabetes, helping them find appropriate services and making referrals to other health care professionals when necessary. Eligibility for this service is limited to members of Eabametoong First Nation who are living with diabetes or at-risk of developing it (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023i).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Eabametoong First Nation aged 16-65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies, and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023j).

Nursing Station

The Nursing Station provides essential medical and health care services to members of Eabametoong First Nation. The station offers primary health care services, including treatment and emergency services, to individuals in need. In addition, the Nursing Station provides the services of a Physician, Optometrist, and Dentist on a monthly basis. The station also conducts health awareness, education, and prevention workshops and seminars to promote healthy lifestyles. The facility houses an X-ray room and a small pharmacy, ensuring that community members have access to necessary medical equipment and medications (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023k).

Immunization Clinic

The Immunization Clinic offers inoculations or other preventive measures to help individuals avoid specific controllable diseases. This clinic is designed to serve members of Eabametoong First Nation, ensuring that they receive the necessary vaccinations to protect against common illnesses (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023l).

Suboxone Treatment Centre

The Suboxone Treatment Centre operates as a detoxification facility for Eabametoong First Nation community members who are struggling with Oxycontin use. This facility functions as a day program and provides a 4-bedroom house that has been renovated into a detoxification centre, with the capacity to treat 10 people at one time. Additionally, the property includes a sauna. The program offers suboxone, a drug that minimizes the effects of withdrawal, in place of methadone. The services offered by the program include intake, withdrawal treatment, counselling, and aftercare. The Suboxone Treatment Centre also provides mental health and addictions counselling and makes referrals to other treatment centres and programs, such as Nodin Child & Family Intervention Services in Sioux Lookout (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023m).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides crucial transportation services to members of Eabametoong First Nation who require assistance in making medical appointments. This program offers transportation to medical appointments within the community and to the airport for health-related flights. It also arranges for air transportation from/to Eabametoong First Nation to any medical appointments in Sioux Lookout or Thunder Bay, including appointments with doctors, dentists, optometrists, and specialists. Eligibility for this program is limited to members of Eabametoong First Nation who require medical transportation assistance due to age, illness, or disability (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023n).

Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Program aims to promote the development of good mental health by providing various services to Eabametoong First Nation community members. It offers mental health screening and assessments, as well as counselling for individuals, couples, and families. In addition, the program conducts information and awareness activities on different topics such as addictions, depression, family violence, health promotion, and stress management (Northwest Health Line, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023a).

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following (Matawa First Nation, 2023a):

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;
- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming.

The 4-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (Matawa First Nation, 2023a).

Services provided include:

- Safe and supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House Addictions Crisis Worker and Youth Residential Worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services are offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental Wellness Team & Crisis Support Services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families, or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support, and care coordination. The program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies and equipment, medical transportation, eye & vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are ones usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa NIHB Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the nine Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC)

Incorporated in 2017, the MHC is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and wellbeing for all members within the 9 Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada. The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes, and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

Cultural Services

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023o).

Recreational Services

The Eabametoong First Nation Recreation Department is responsible for planning and implementing social, recreational and special events for community members. The department provides a variety of activities including arts and crafts, baking nights, movie nights and outdoor sports events. During the summer months, the department organizes and supervises outdoor activities for youth, such as baseball, football and soccer. The Joseph Jacob Memorial Arena hosts an 8-team hockey league, and the department coordinates a hockey program during the winter months. In addition, the department offers boys' and men's hockey tournaments and men's/women's broomball tournaments. Summertime concerts are organized at the natural ice arena. Recreational facilities and services include a beach, gymnasium, indoor hockey arena, pow wow grounds, recreation trails along the shoreline, sports field for basketball and baseball, and Winter Carnival (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023p).

Communications Services

Internet Connectivity

Eabametoong First Nation obtains internet support through Rapid Lynx broadband project under Matawa First Nations Management (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022a). The project was initiated in 2020 for Phase I, which included improving and enhancing internet services across five communities: Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie with interconnection at Aroland. The connection will be fibre optic, and Aroland First Nation will host one of the main connection points/ Point of Presence to connect to the fibre optic backbone network; and following completion of the network and community distribution networks, the Rapid Lynx backbone network will be connected from Aroland First Nation to Ginoogaming First Nation's 'Internet Gateway' (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022b).

Currently there is no fixed broadband internet available in Eabametoong First Nation, but internet connection with less than 5/1 Mbps is available throughout the community (Connected North, 2023).

KO Telehealth

The KO Telehealth partnered with member First Nations, the OTN, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), and First Nations and Inuit Health (FNIH) to provide high-quality and cost-effective telehealth/telemedicine service that meets the health and wellness priorities of Ontario's most isolated communities, with a focus on First Nations requirements and community leadership. The use of information and communication technology supports various health, social, and economic development needs and anticipates the development of complementary health initiatives. The telehealth/ telemedicine service has significantly improved health outcomes for on-reserve populations, providing a culturally safe and competent service that bridges the gap in chronic health services access for remote First Nations communities. It has also demonstrated how health services can be delivered effectively across large and culturally diverse territories, building and strengthening communities' capacities while supporting health workers in their roles (KO Telemedicine, 2023).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023k).

5.3.1.2.3 Kasabonika Lake First Nation

Community Services information for Kasabonika Lake First Nation. been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario. To-date, Kasabonika Lake First Nation has not confirmed that it wishes to undertake Socio-Economic primary data collection.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Kasabonika Lake First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Kasabonika Council to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

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Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Child Care

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program provides parenting support programming and promotes healthy child development. The program is available for Kasabonika Lake children under 6 years old. The following supports are provided as part of this program (211north.ca, 2023af):

- Provides group information and educational sessions on topics about healthy pregnancy, birth and taking care of baby at home;
- Provides information on the stages of pregnancy; and
- Offers parents handbook of pregnancy and baby care (Baby’s Best Chance).

Program participants are provided with telephone follow up 48 hours after discharge from hospital, home visits pre-birth and post-birth to provide support for new mothers as well as support for early years child development, and referrals to other programs and services (211north.ca, 2023af).

Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development program is designed to enhance the health and social development of Kasabonika Lake First Nation’s preschool children under the age of 6 and their families. Its primary objective is to meet the child’s emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological requirements. The program aims to culturally connect children and instill traditional values and history related to their families, community, and the Nation. The involvement of parents, Elders, and community members is highly encouraged. The program provides various school readiness programs, including learning shapes and numbers, building vocabulary, and reading, and supervised indoor and outdoor playtime and gym activities. Additionally, nutritious snacks are offered to the children (211north.ca, 2023ag).

Elder Care

Home Care Program

The Home Care Program offers assistance to Elders and families with members having disabilities to manage routine household activities such as light housekeeping, laundry, shopping, meal preparation, and personal care. The program also provides support for heavy and seasonal housecleaning and assistance with outdoor work during winter months, including shovelling and firewood. It acts as a respite for caregivers and offers short-term loans or mobility aids such as

walkers and raised toilet seats. Eligibility criteria for the program include members of Kasabonika Lake First Nation who require homemaking or home support assistance due to age (60 years and older) or living with a disability (211north.ca, 2023ah).

Health Services

Crisis Intervention

Crisis Intervention provides immediate assistance to individuals of Kasabonika Lake First Nation affected by family violence and suicide. Their services are available on site or through a telephone call, and if necessary, they dispatch the police. The team confirms the safety of the victims and offers support and assistance. They can also arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions. Crisis Intervention also coordinates a crisis plan for suicide and domestic violence intervention and any other form of crisis situations that may arise in the community. Additionally, they conduct information sessions and workshops on techniques for healing strategies. The support services offered include debriefing and stabilization following a crisis, advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies, meal preparation, transportation, homemaking, and other areas requiring support for families in crisis situations such as the suicide of a youth. Crisis Intervention provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services (211north.ca, 2023ai).

Health Department

The Health Department offers a range of services to promote the physical and mental well-being of community members. It oversees the administration of the Emily Anderson Memorial Nursing Station, coordinates periodontal dental services and vision care, and conducts basic foot care sessions. The department also provides mental health counseling and various health programs to the Kasabonika Lake First Nation's community members (211north.ca, 2023ax).

Withdrawal Management

The Withdrawal Management program operates a detoxification centre for community members struggling with Oxycontin addiction in Kasabonika Lake First Nation. The program functions as a day program and offers suboxone instead of methadone to minimize the effects of withdrawal. It includes various services such as intake, withdrawal treatment, counseling, and aftercare. Additionally, the program provides mental health and addictions counseling, as well as referrals to other treatment centres and programs like Nodin Child & Family Intervention Services in Sioux Lookout (211north.ca, 2023ay).

Nursing Station

The Nursing Station provides basic medical and health care services that aim to promote physical and mental health for Kasabonika Lake First Nation community members. The station coordinates health care services through a health team consisting of Community Health Nurses, Visiting Physicians, and Home Care workers. The station also provides health awareness and counseling, education, and prevention workshops/clinics on various topics such as Child Care, Diabetes, Elders & Chronic Disease, Immunization, Sexual Health, and Communicable Diseases. The Nursing Station addresses individual health care needs by providing treatment of ongoing health problems, emergency services, advocacy on behalf of individuals with other health professionals, coordination of one-on-one prenatal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers, and persons with healthcare needs, as well as assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211north.ca, 2023al).

Maternal Child Health Program

The Maternal Child Health Program is designed to support pregnant women and families with infants and young children in the Kasabonika Lake First Nation community. The program offers a range of services and programs to enhance the lives of its clients. This includes screening of new mothers and individual counselling services for

pregnancy, child development concerns and related issues. The program also promotes breastfeeding and provides welcome home bags with baby supplies to all new mothers. Additionally, baby supplies are available to low-income families. The program provides education and information on various topics, including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness, child nutrition issues, healthy cooking and shopping for families, and prenatal nutrition. Eligibility for the program is open to members of Kasabonika Lake First Nation who are pregnant or new parents with children up to 18 months of age. The program also provides long-term support for families that require additional services. Low-income families can contact the program coordinator to determine their eligibility for baby supplies (211north.ca, 2023am).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Kasabonika Lake First Nation aged 16-65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211north.ca, 2023an).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

he National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Kasabonika Lake First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211north.ca, 2023ao).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program delivers transportation services to Kasabonika Lake First Nation's community members who require assistance with medical appointments due to illness, injury, or age. The program provides transportation within the community for individuals accessing the nursing station or health office. Additionally, it offers assistance in completing prior approval applications for long-distance medical appointments and coordinates accommodation and travel details for individuals attending medical appointments at Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre or Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital (211north.ca, 2023ap).

Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Program aims to support the development of sound mental health and provide services to individuals of Kasabonika Lake First Nation experiencing mental health issues. The program provides information and awareness activities related to depression, family violence, and stress management. It also offers counselling services, cultural activities and crafts, recreational and wellness activities (211north.ca, 2023aq).

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program

The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program provides education and information on the harmful consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The program offers individual and group counselling sessions, parenting classes, and information sessions for teens. It advises on various conditions such as Alcohol Related Birth Defects (ARBD), Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Effects, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The program is available to members of Kasabonika Lake First Nation and families of children who have been diagnosed with or are suspected of having Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (211north.ca, 2023ar).

Cultural Services

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211north.ca, 2023as).

Recreational Services

The Recreation Centre located in Kasabonika Lake First Nation serves as a popular community hub for a range of activities such as ice hockey, skating, dances, and bingo nights, drawing many participants. Along with indoor sports and entertainment, outdoor activities like fishing, swimming, hiking, and canoeing are also highly sought after among community members (Northwest Health line, Kasabonika Resource Centre, 2023b).

Communications Services

Kasabonika Lake KO Telehealth

The KO Telehealth partnered with member First Nations, the OTN, the MOHLTC, and FNIH to provide high-quality and cost-effective telehealth/telemedicine service that meets the health and wellness priorities of Ontario's most isolated communities, with a focus on First Nations requirements and community leadership. The use of information and communication technology supports various health, social, and economic development needs and anticipates the development of complementary health initiatives. The telehealth/telemedicine service has significantly improved health outcomes for on-reserve populations, providing a culturally safe and competent service that bridges the gap in chronic health services access for remote First Nations communities. It has also demonstrated how health services can be delivered effectively across large and culturally diverse territories, building and strengthening communities' capacities while supporting health workers in their roles (211north.ca, 2023at).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers access to specialized medical care through videoconferencing and tele-diagnostic equipment. It allows remote specialists to examine and prescribe treatments for patients in their home communities, including consultations for specialty services such as physio and diabetes. OTN also provides opportunities for workshops and education sessions for staff and patients. With this service, patients can receive care without having to travel, reducing the need for transportation and potentially improving access to care (211north.ca, 2023al).

Internet Connectivity

Currently there is no fixed broadband internet available in Kasabonika Lake First Nation, but internet connection with less than 5/1 Mbps is available throughout the community (Connected North, 2023). However, under the 'Improving Connectivity for Ontario/Universal Broadband Fund' program initiated in 2021, KNet has undertaken provision of internet connections to the community (Ministry of Infrastructure, 2023; Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, 2023b).

Kasabonika Lake First Nation is included within the 18 First Nations which will be provided with KNet upgrade to increase bandwidth on Northwestern Ontario Broadband Expansion Initiative (NWOBEI) Fibre Loop. The multi-year project will update the KNet and Bell fibre optic broadband network and increase bandwidth. The program also includes community technician training, site assessments, equipment installation at point of presence, wireless access points, and other components (KuhKenah Network, 2023).

5.3.1.2.4 Marten Falls First Nation

Community Services information for Marten Falls First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario. The Socio-Economic Baseline also incorporates preliminary information obtained through the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program, which includes Socio-Economic surveys with community members.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Marten Falls First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 Indigenous communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Band Council to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. This recognizes that previously support services for children and families were generally provided from outside Indigenous communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

On February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Child Care

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program provides parenting support and encourages healthy child development for community members with children under the age of six, including Indigenous children at risk, in Marten Falls First Nation. The program offers group sessions on topics such as healthy pregnancy, birth, and caring for babies at home, as well as providing information on pregnancy stages and a parenting handbook called Baby’s Best Chance. Participants receive follow-up calls within 48 hours of hospital discharge and home visits both before and after birth to prepare families and offer support to new mothers. The program also provides home visits during a child’s early years to offer guidance on development and referrals to other programs and services as needed (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023b).

Elder Care

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Marten Falls First Nation community in the comfort of their own homes. This service is provided by a Case Manager/Nurse, Personal Support Workers, and Homemakers. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan, which is continuously monitored through case management to verify its effectiveness. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023c).

Health Services

Crisis Intervention

Crisis Intervention provides immediate assistance to individuals of Marten Falls First Nation affected by family violence and suicide. Their services are available on-site or through a telephone call, and if necessary, they dispatch the police. The team confirms the safety of the victims and offers support and assistance. They can also arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions. Crisis Intervention also coordinates a crisis plan for suicide and domestic violence intervention and any other form of crisis situations that may arise in the community. Additionally, they conduct information sessions and workshops on techniques for healing strategies. The support services offered include debriefing and stabilization following a crisis, advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies, meal preparation, transportation, homemaking, and other areas requiring support for families in crisis situations such as the suicide of a youth. Crisis Intervention provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023d).

Health Centre

The Health Centre provides a range of services to promote physical and mental health for members of the community. These services include health awareness, education and prevention workshops and seminars, as well as clinics for conditions such as diabetes, immunization, sexual health and communicable diseases. Additionally, the centre offers prenatal and postpartum health care, wellness groups for both men and women, and smoking cessation counselling. First Aid/CPR courses are also available, administered by the Red Cross. The centre identifies and works to correct health hazards and addresses individual health care needs through intake services to determine individual health care needs, referrals to appropriate health care providers, and advocacy on behalf of individuals with other health professionals. Furthermore, the centre provides education and information about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects, and offers home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers, and individuals with health care needs. Assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments is also available (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023e).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Marten Falls First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counselling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023f).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Marten Falls First Nation aged 16-65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023g).

Immunization Clinic

The Immunization Clinic offers inoculations or other preventive measures to help individuals avoid specific controllable diseases. This clinic is designed to serve members of Marten Falls First Nation, ensuring that they receive the necessary vaccinations to protect against common illnesses (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023h).

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative aims to provide education and services for the prevention, management and treatment of diabetes among members of Marten Falls First Nation. This initiative offers case management and screening services to help increase early detection and reduce the number of complications that can result from uncontrolled diabetes. Additionally, the program advises on developing and implementing an approach to care and management of diabetes, while promoting increased physical activity and healthy eating habits. Cultural activities and traditions are also integrated into the program, with workshops, presentations, and hands-on training offered. The initiative assists individuals in finding appropriate services and provides referrals to other health care professionals (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023i).

Suboxone Treatment Program

The Suboxone Treatment Program provides a detoxification program for members of Marten Falls First Nation who are struggling with prescription drug abuse and addiction. Operating as a day program, the initiative offers suboxone as a substitute for methadone to minimize the effects of withdrawal. The program includes intake, withdrawal treatment, counselling, and aftercare services. Additionally, the program provides mental health and addiction counselling, as well as referrals to other treatment centres and programs as required (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023j).

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following (Matawa First Nation, 2023a):

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;
- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming.

The 4-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (Matawa First Nation, 2023a).

Services provided include:

- Safe and supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House Addictions Crisis Worker and Youth Residential Worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services are offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental Wellness Team & Crisis Support Services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families, or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support, and care coordination. The program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Matawa NIHB program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies & equipment, medical transportation, eye & vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are ones usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa NIHB Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the nine Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC)

Incorporated in 2017, the MHC is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and wellbeing for all members within the nine Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada. The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes, and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

Cultural Services

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youth involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023k).

Recreational Services

The Marten Falls First Nation community has access to an arena for hockey and skating, as well as a boat launch for pleasure boating and angling (Teach for Canada, Marten Falls, 2017).

Communications Services

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023d).

Internet Connectivity

Marten Falls First Nation obtains internet support through Rapid Lynx broadband project under Matawa First Nations Management (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022a). The project was initiated in 2020 for Phase I, which included improving and enhancing internet services across five communities: Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie with interconnection at Aroland. The connection will be fibre optic, and Aroland First Nation will host one of the main connection points/ Point of Presence to connect to the fibre optic backbone network; and following completion of the network and community distribution networks, the Rapid Lynx backbone network will be connected from Aroland First Nation to Ginoogaming First Nation's 'Internet Gateway' (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022b).

Currently there is no fixed broadband internet available in Marten Falls First Nation, but internet connection with less than 5/1 Mbps is available throughout the community (Connected North, 2023).

5.3.1.2.5 Neskantaga First Nation

Community Services information for Neskantaga First Nation. has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario. To-date, Neskantaga First Nation has not confirmed that it wishes to undertake Socio-Economic primary data collection.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Neskantaga First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Band Council to provide child

protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. This recognizes that previously support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests with the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Child Care

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program provides parenting support programming and promotes healthy child development. The program is available for Neskantaga children under 6 years old. The following supports are provided as part of this program (211north.ca, 2023q):

- Provides group information and educational sessions on topics about healthy pregnancy, birth and taking care of baby at home;
- Provides information on the stages of pregnancy; and
- Offers parents handbook of pregnancy and baby care (Baby’s Best Chance).

Program participants are provided with telephone follow up 48 hours after discharge from hospital, home visits pre-birth and post-birth to provide support for new mothers as well as support for early years child development, and referrals to other programs and services (211north.ca, 2023q).

Elder Care

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Neskantaga First Nation community in the comfort of their own homes. This service is provided by a Case Manager/Nurse, Personal Support Workers, and Homemakers. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan, which is continuously monitored through case management to secure its effectiveness. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced

practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211north.ca, 2023r).

Health Services

Home and Community Care – Physiotherapy Services

Home and Community Care program provides in-home rehabilitative care to individuals of Neskantaga First Nation who need assistance in preserving or regaining their independence. The physiotherapy services offered may be provided either in the client's home or at the nursing station, depending on their needs. The services provided may include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and case management. Eligibility for these services is determined based on the individual's specific needs and requirements (211north.ca, 2023s).

Crisis Intervention

Crisis Intervention provides immediate assistance to individuals of Neskantaga First Nation affected by family violence and suicide. Their services are available on-site or through a telephone call, and if necessary, they dispatch the police. The team confirms the safety of the victims and offers support and assistance. They can also arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions. Crisis Intervention also coordinates a crisis plan for suicide and domestic violence intervention and any other form of crisis situations that may arise in the community. Additionally, they conduct information sessions and workshops on techniques for healing strategies. The support services offered include debriefing and stabilization following a crisis, advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies, meal preparation, transportation, homemaking, and other areas requiring support for families in crisis situations such as the suicide of a youth. Crisis Intervention provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services (211north.ca, 2023t).

Health and Social Services

The Health and Social Services program provides a range of services that promote physical and mental health for Neskantaga community members. These services are coordinated through the Nursing Station and include physician consultations a few days per month with a visiting physician from Sioux Lookout. The program offers health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops, particularly in the areas of diabetes and alcohol/drug abuse. Clinics and workshops are also organized for areas such as diabetes, immunization, sexual health, and communicable diseases. In addition, the program offers a palliative care program when required and coordinates various health programs for community members. Individual health care needs are addressed by providing advocacy on behalf of individuals with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers, and persons with health care needs, as well as assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211north.ca, 2023u).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Neskantaga First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211north.ca, 2023v).

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative provides education, screening, and case management for the prevention, management, and treatment of diabetes. The program works to reduce the number of avoidable complications that can arise from uncontrolled diabetes. It advises individuals on developing and implementing an approach to care and management of diabetes, helping them find appropriate services and making referrals to other health care professionals when necessary. Eligibility for this service is limited to members of Neskantaga First Nation who are living with diabetes or at-risk of developing it (211north.ca, 2023w).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Neskantaga First Nation aged 16-65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies, and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211north.ca, 2023x).

Immunization Clinic

The Immunization Clinic offers inoculations or other preventive measures to help individuals avoid specific controllable diseases. This clinic is designed to serve members of Neskantaga First Nation, ensuring that they receive the necessary vaccinations to protect against common illnesses (211north.ca, 2023y).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides medical transportation services and assistance in making medical appointment arrangements to members of Neskantaga First Nation who require medical transportation assistance due to age or disability. The program offers transportation services within the community to medical appointments, as well as transportation assistance from/to Neskantaga First Nation to medical appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist, specialist) in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. In addition, the program provides assistance with making arrangements for any medical appointments out of town such as booking appointments, hotels, and completing applications for mileage compensation (211north.ca, 2023z).

Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Program aims to support the development of sound mental health and provide services to individuals of Neskantaga Lake First Nation experiencing mental health issues. The program provides information and awareness activities related to depression, family violence, and stress management. It also offers counseling services, cultural activities and crafts, recreational and wellness activities (211north.ca, 2023aa).

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following (Matawa First Nation, 2023a):

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;

- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming.

The 4-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (8pm to 6am daily) (Matawa First Nation, 2023a).

Services provided include:

- Safe and supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House Addictions Crisis Worker and Youth Residential Worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services are offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental Wellness Team & Crisis Support Services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families, or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support, and care coordination. The program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies & equipment, medical transportation, eye & vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are ones usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the nine Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC)

Incorporated in 2017, the MHC is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and wellbeing for all members within the 9 Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada. The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing

the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes, and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

Cultural Services

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Indigenous languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211north.ca, 2023ab).

Brighter Futures

Brighter Futures is an organization that provides a variety of programs and activities to promote healthy living among members of the Neskantaga First Nation between the ages of 2 to 35 years. The organization operates a youth drop-in centre and offers educational sessions on various healthy living topics. In addition, Brighter Futures carries out fundraising efforts with children and youth to teach financial responsibility and offset program costs. With at least 3 days prior notice, the organization also provides activities and sports events upon request. Various activities are available for different age groups, including arts and crafts, ball hockey, baseball games, exercise classes, hunting and fishing, survival skills teaching, kids' playtime, movie nights, outdoor and indoor sports, traditional teachings, and weight training (211north.ca, 2023ac).

Recreational Services

The Youth Program is responsible for planning, developing, and implementing social, recreational, and special events for the children and youth of the Neskantaga First Nation community. The program provides a range of activities such as arts and crafts, baking nights, movie nights and outdoor sports events (211north.ca, 2023ad).

Communications Services

Internet Connectivity

Neskantaga First Nation obtains internet support through Rapid Lynx broadband project under Matawa First Nations Management (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022a). The project was initiated in 2020 for Phase I, which included improving and enhancing internet services across five communities: Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie with interconnection at Aroland. The connection will be fibre optic, and Aroland First Nation will host one of the main connection points/ Point of Presence to connect to the fibre optic backbone network; and following completion of the network and community distribution networks, the Rapid Lynx backbone network will be connected from Aroland First Nation to Ginoogaming First Nation's 'Internet Gateway' (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022b).

Currently there is no fixed broadband internet available in Neskantaga First Nation, but internet connection with less than 5/1 Mbps is available throughout the community (Connected North, 2023).

Internet Café offered as part of Youth Program

As part of the Youth Program, an Internet Café is available to provide a drop-in facility for youth to receive assistance with resume writing and filling out job applications. Additionally, the Internet Café offers a social centre for youth to engage in various activities and interact with each other (211north.ca, 2023ad).

KO Telehealth

The KO Telehealth partnered with member First Nations, the OTN, the MOHLTC, and FNIH to provide high-quality and cost-effective telehealth/telemedicine service that meets the health and wellness priorities of Ontario's most isolated communities, with a focus on First Nations requirements and community leadership. The use of information and communication technology supports various health, social, and economic development needs and anticipates the development of complementary health initiatives. The telehealth/telemedicine service has significantly improved health outcomes for on-reserve populations, providing a culturally safe and competent service that bridges the gap in chronic health services access for remote First Nations communities. It has also demonstrated how health services can be delivered effectively across large and culturally diverse territories, building, and strengthening communities' capacities while supporting health workers in their roles (211north.ca, 2023ae).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas (211north.ca, 2023u).

5.3.1.2.6 Nibinamik First Nation

Community Services information for Nibinamik First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario. To-date, Nibinamik First Nation has not confirmed that it wishes to undertake Socio-Economic primary data collection.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a culturally specific child and family services organization that provides services to 30 First Nations communities, including Nibinamik First Nation, across one-third of Ontario. The organization's Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin service model emphasizes Indigenous approaches to child welfare and incorporates the wisdom, guidance, and teachings of Elders in all aspects of service delivery.

As of January 2020, Tikinagan has been designated by the Ministry to provide child protection services to families residing in the Thunder Bay district. The organization's goal is to keep children in their own communities, even when they cannot be with their parents, by placing them in foster homes nearby through Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Care Agreements, without court involvement. Customary care is also an essential part of Tikinagan's approach, with the First Nation Chief and Council having the authority to declare children to be placed in Tikinagan care when removal from their home is necessary.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, "Neegan Inabin" for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means 'looking forward' in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

The organization works with First Nations to develop service plans for families and placement options and care plans for children in care, which are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a, Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b, Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Child Care

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program provides parenting support and encourages healthy child development for community members with children under the age of 6, including Indigenous children at-risk, in Nibinamik First Nation. The program offers group sessions on topics such as healthy pregnancy, birth, and caring for babies at home, as well as providing information on pregnancy stages and a parenting handbook called Baby's Best Chance. Participants receive follow-up calls within 48 hours of hospital discharge and home visits both before and after birth to prepare families and offer support to new mothers. The program also provides home visits during a child's early years to offer guidance on development and referrals to other programs and services as needed (211north.ca, 2023e).

Daycare Program

The licensed daycare program is dedicated to promoting the comprehensive development of children. It provides structured activities such as art, baking, circle time, music, story time, field trips, and special events that are appropriate for each age group. The program also incorporates Native cultural programs to further enrich the children's experience. Both indoor and outdoor playtime is provided and supervised by trained caregivers. The daycare serves two snacks and a hot lunch each day. The program offers full-time and part-time daycare services for toddlers, preschoolers, and after-school care for children who require care while their parents are at work. Additionally, infant respite care is available for children between 0-12 months old. The Early Childhood Development program provides assistance for infant respite care (211north.ca, 2023f).

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Nibinamik First Nation community in the comfort of their own homes. This service is provided by a Case Manager/Nurse, Personal Support Workers, and Homemakers. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan, which is continuously monitored through case management to verify its effectiveness. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211north.ca, 2023g).

Health Services

Crisis Intervention

Crisis Intervention provides immediate assistance to individuals of Nibinamik First Nation affected by family violence and suicide. Their services are available on-site or through a telephone call, and if necessary, they dispatch the police. The team confirms the safety of the victims and offers support and assistance. They can also arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions. Crisis Intervention also coordinates a crisis plan for suicide and domestic violence intervention and any other form of crisis situations that may arise in the community. Additionally, they conduct information sessions and workshops on techniques for healing strategies. The support services offered include debriefing and stabilization following a crisis, advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies, meal preparation, transportation, homemaking, and other areas requiring support for families in crisis situations such as the suicide of a youth. Crisis Intervention provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services (211 Ontario North, Nibinamik First Nation, 2023b).

Health Services

Health Services provides a range of services aimed at promoting physical and mental health for community members. The nursing station health team, consisting of community health nurses/nurse practitioners, a community health representative, and a full-time counselor, coordinates health care services. Additionally, a visiting physician from Sioux Lookout is available twice a month for physician consultations. Health Services provides treatment and emergency services, promotes positive lifestyle practices, and coordinates clinics/workshops in areas such as diabetes,

immunization, sexual health, and communicable diseases. The service also offers mental health services, including counseling, and coordinates visits from dentists and optometrists throughout the year. Health Services addresses individual health care needs by advocating on behalf of individuals with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, conducting home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers, and persons with health care needs, and providing assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Nibinamik First Nation, 2023c).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Nibinamik First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211north.ca, 2023h).

Diabetes Program

The Diabetes Program provides education and services to prevent, manage, and treat diabetes. They offer case management and screening services to increase early detection and reduce avoidable complications. The program advises on the development and implementation of diabetes care and management approaches, promotes healthy eating, and encourages physical activity. Additionally, they provide cultural workshops, presentations, and hands-on training, as well as assist individuals in finding appropriate services and referrals to other healthcare professionals. Also, coordinates activities such as fitness programs with monthly weigh-ins, foot care clinics, health displays, healthy snack workshops, nutrition bingos, and walks. The program is open to members of the Nibinamik First Nation living with diabetes or those at risk (211north.ca, 2023i).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Nibinamik First Nation aged 16-65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies, and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211north.ca, 2023j).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides assistance and transportation services for individuals who need help in making medical appointments. It offers transportation within the community and to medical appointments in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. The program also assists in making arrangements for medical appointments out of town, including booking appointments, hotels, and completing applications for mileage compensation. The program is open to members of Nibinamik First Nation who require medical transportation assistance due to age, illness, or disability (211north.ca, 2023k).

Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Program aims to support the development of sound mental health and provide services to individuals of Nibinamik First Nation experiencing mental health issues. The program provides information and awareness activities related to depression, family violence, and stress management. It also offers counseling services, cultural activities and crafts, recreational and wellness activities (211north.ca, 2023l).

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following (Matawa First Nation, 2023a):

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;
- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming.

The 4-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (Matawa First Nation, 2023a).

Services provided include:

- Safe and supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House Addictions Crisis Worker and Youth Residential Worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services are offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental Wellness Team & Crisis Support Services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families, or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support, and care coordination. The program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Matawa NIHB program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies & equipment, medical transportation, eye & vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are ones usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa NIHB Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the nine Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative

Incorporated in 2017, the Matawa Health Co-operative (MHC) is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and wellbeing for all members within the 9 Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada. The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes, and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

Cultural Services

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youth involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211north.ca, 2023m).

Youth Program

The Youth Program is responsible for organizing and implementing social, recreational, and special events for children and youth in the Nibinamik First Nation community. They provide a variety of activities such as arts and crafts, movie nights, and outdoor sports events. Additionally, they supervise outdoor activities for youth during the summer, including baseball, football, soccer, dodgeball, and frisbee. The recreation facilities include a baseball diamond, gymnasium, skating rink, and a recreation complex, which can be used for feasts, social gatherings, and indoor sports activities. Moreover, the program coordinates the Youth Wilderness Retreat Program (YWRP), which is an annual week-long wilderness camp experience held in July for children, youth, and families. The focus of the YWRP is to promote leadership and cultural knowledge with teachings provided by local Elders and experienced instructors. The program offers a range of activities such as sports, practical skills learning, and cultural experiences like medicine walks, fish netting, boat and motor safety, first aid/water training, moose hunting skills, and preparation of traditional food. The YWRP takes place at the traditional O-ma-day-na-moh-win-nik (Breathing Grounds) site, which is a 25-minute boat ride from the community (211north.ca, 2023n).

Recreational Services

The Recreation Department at the Nibinamik First Nation Band Office coordinates a variety of programs including: broomball tournaments, game nights, group fitness classes, hockey tournaments, volleyball nights and youth workshops. Outdoor recreation activities, such as hunting, fishing, and camping are also popular (211 Ontario North, 2023o).

Communications Services

Internet connectivity

In Nibinamik, community members, particularly youth and young adults, have expressed the need for better internet access and more hotspots. The youth have mentioned that they hang around outside the community hotel as it is their only option for Internet access. During the cold winter months, they would like a warm place to go online (Nibinamik, 2019). Nibinamik First Nation obtains internet support through Rapid Lynx broadband project under Matawa First Nations Management (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022a). The project was initiated in 2020 for Phase I, which included improving and enhancing internet services across five communities: Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie with interconnection at Aroland. In 2022, Phase II of the Rapid Lynx broadband project was planned and this will include an additional 289 kilometers (180 miles) of fiber and optical equipment and will also connect Nibinamik First Nation to Wunnumin Lake First Nation to allow for a second connection to the internet for redundancy and path diversity, increasing network reliability and resiliency along the Rapid Lynx route (Matawa First Nations, 2022). The connection will be fibre optic, and Aroland First Nation will host one of the main connection points/ Point of Presence to connect to the fibre optic backbone network; and following completion of the network and community distribution networks, the Rapid Lynx backbone network will be connected from Aroland First Nation to Ginoogaming First Nation's 'Internet Gateway' (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022b).

As per the Ontario Internet Access Map, Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Indian Settlement) has 100% fixed broadband in the community (Connected North, 2023).

Nibinamik KO Telehealth

The KO Telehealth partnered with member First Nations, the OTN, the MOHLTC, and FNIH to provide high-quality and cost-effective telehealth/telemedicine service that meets the health and wellness priorities of Ontario's most isolated communities, with a focus on First Nations requirements and community leadership. The use of information and communication technology supports various health, social, and economic development needs and anticipates the development of complementary health initiatives. The telehealth/telemedicine service has significantly improved health outcomes for on-reserve populations, providing a culturally safe and competent service that bridges the gap in chronic health services access for remote First Nations communities. It has also demonstrated how health services can be delivered effectively across large and culturally diverse territories, building and strengthening communities' capacities while supporting health workers in their roles (211north.ca, 2023p).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas (211 Ontario North, Nibinamik First Nation, 2023c).

5.3.1.2.7 Weenusk First Nation

Community Services information for Weenusk First Nation was collected from the Socio-Economic Baseline and incorporates preliminary information obtained through the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program, which includes Socio-Economic surveys with Weenusk First Nation community members.

Family Services

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in

alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, 2023av).

Child Care

Children's Services

The Children's Services department is responsible for delivering childcare and protection services as well as family support services to members of the Weenusk First Nation community. Payukotayno Child and Family Services is mandated as a Native Child Welfare Agency. The prevention services provided by the department include teaching parenting skills, developing healthy social and recreational programs for families, hosting community forums to address various issues, organizing Elders' meetings that address traditional child rearing methods, and providing information sessions about understanding substance dependency and family violence. The department also offers repatriation services, which involve processing requests to bring children in external foster care back to their homes within the community and providing advocacy on behalf of the child and family (Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Family Services, N.D.a).

Children's Mental Health

The program provides clinical services to families (natural and foster) with children aged from birth to 18 years. The program focuses on providing comprehensive clinical services such as assessments, therapy, individual and family counselling; group work; school and residential programs; education/training; advocacy and referral services. Additionally, consultations with contracted psychologists and service protocols with psychiatrists at Toronto Sick Kids Hospital are available via the agency's video access.

Community support program provides support to families and children in a range of interventions such as community prevention programs and family support activities designed to strengthen families and respond to emerging community needs.

The 0 – 6 Early Years Mental Health Initiative provides intensive mental health services dedicated to children between age 0 and 6. This service assesses whether a child will require an intervention as they are or are at risk of requiring extensive mental health services later in life. Biological (genetic) and environmental influences risk factors for a child's mental health development include parenting practices, parent-child interactions, poverty, domestic violence, parental mental health issues, and substance abuse (Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Family Services. (N.D.b)).

Elder Care

Home and Community Care

The Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) serving Weenusk helps provide holistic health services for aging at home, reflecting the distinct needs of all community members (WAHA, 2016).

Funding and advice for Elder care is provided by Indigenous Services Canada under the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care (FNIHCC) program. It aims to develop home and community care services to Indigenous people living in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). The FNIHCC program covers First Nations persons living on-reserve and having been assessed as requiring one or more services. The FNIHCC program focuses on services, such as:

- Client need, case management and care coordination;
- In-home respite care and temporary care;
- Nursing care planning; and

- Personal care management.

Health Services

Health Services

The Health Services program promote physical and mental health for Weenusk First Nation community members. This program coordinates health services through a team consisting of two Nurses, a Community Health Representative, and a Referral Clerk. The program also provides Physician support through the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority on a rotating basis. To further support the community's health, the program offers health awareness, education and prevention workshops and seminars. Additionally, clinics for blood pressure, immunization, sexual health, and communicable diseases are coordinated by the program. Basic foot care sessions are offered in individual's homes or at the clinic. Furthermore, the program coordinates consultations with visiting dentists and optometrists every 6 months for 3 to 5 day visits (211north.ca, 2023aw).

Due to the prevalence of diabetes in the community, traditionally harvested foods which are free of sugar and other additives are healthier for the community and accessibility to these foods is important for community health (MNP LLP, 2023b).

> *"It's important [traditionally harvested foods]. It's (…) healthy, right? Like there's no added stuff to them (…) like hormones and antibiotics. (…) diabetes is so huge with our people (…) [because of] all that store stuff they eat."*
> -*WFN17* (MNP, n.d.)

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Weenusk First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211north.ca, 2023aj).

Youth Prevention Services

The Youth Prevention Services program coordinates various programs and services designed for the benefit of Weenusk First Nation's youth who are 12 years of age and older. The program provides opportunities for youth to engage in cultural, land-based activities, sports events, and other activities that promote learning and skills to empower them. Additionally, the program offers education on suicide prevention and healthy living to equip youth with important knowledge to safeguard their well-being (211north.ca, 2023ak).

Recreational Services

Operating out of Weenusk First Nation, Wild Wind Tours offers tourists outdoor excursion including: canoe tripping, eco-adventures, fishing trips, and guiding services (Wild Wind Tours, 2015). The Weenusk First Nation Band Office maintains recreation facilities including two ballparks, a playground, an outdoor skating rink, a multi-purpose room and a drop-in centre (211 Ontario North, Weenusk – Governance, 2023a).

Internet Connectivity

Currently there is no fixed broadband internet available in Weenusk First Nation, but internet connection with less than 5/1 Mbps is available throughout the community (Connected North, 2023). However, under the 'Improving Connectivity for Ontario/Universal Broadband Fund' program initiated in 2021, KNet has undertaken provision of internet connections to the community (Ministry of Infrastructure, 2023; Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, 2023b).

Additionally, Fort Severn and Peawanuck/ Weenusk First Nation are working with KNET to replace the existing satellite connection with a marine fibre line (to be buried from the First Nations to the Hudson Bay coast and laid on the bottom of the bay to Kuujjuarapik, Quebec); the project has an expected completion date of 2025. On October 2023, the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry provided its decision statement of the project as having no impact on the environment (Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, 2023c; KuhKenah Network, N.D.).

5.3.1.3 GBA+ Considerations

Understanding community services available to Webequie First Nation members on-reserve helps to identify services that may be stressed and/or unable to accommodate potential changes in community needs related to the WSR Project, particularly services which serve vulnerable sub-populations, such as Elders and women.

Health Services are provided in Webequie First Nation by a rotational team of three community health nurses/nurse practitioners and a community health representative. Physician consultations are offered twice a month with a visiting physician from Sioux Lookout (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023b). The community does not currently have emergency medical services (e.g., ambulance).

Health Services in Webequie First Nation is an already stressed system, where members do not have access to a regular, full-time physician and instead rely on a rotation of nurses to address their health care needs. The remoteness of the community makes it challenging to deliver healthcare, where transportation delays can not only result in delayed service, but loss of live. The community is in need of adequate healthcare and overnight health care accommodation. Lack of appropriate healthcare in the community has caused a loss of trust in the system amongst Webequie residents (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

There is currently no long-term Elder care facility in the community. Instead, community staff conduct home visits to assist Elders with household tasks, personal care, and transportation (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Lack of a local long-term care facility for Elder's is a primary concern for Webequie First Nation members (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; 2022a). In the Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey, 66.7% of Webequie member respondents reported a lack of access to Elder care, and Elder care ranked as the second most requested service in the community after childcare (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Lack of health care services for Elders inhibits Webequie First Nation members from aging in place (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Families often have no choice but to send their parents to long-term care facilities in larger urban centres like Thunder Bay, where costs may outweigh their financial means (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). It further makes the senior population of Webequie more vulnerable to changes in population, as increases in the population can place greater stress on the existing health care system (CRIAW 2014).

Childcare is a challenge in Webequie. The community has a preschool, the Aboriginal Head Start Program, which is geared toward children aged four and younger. There is no childcare (daycare) program available (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Lack of childcare options particularly impacts women and girls, who are often responsible for caring for children in the home.

A potential increase in the population of Webequie First Nation and presence of a temporary population nearby the community could affect community service needs, such as healthcare, which may be experienced differently by vulnerable populations in the community. Changes to the demand for healthcare could be attributed to an increase in the number of people accessing health are locally. Temporary construction camps have known impacts on their host communities which can be the result of isolation from friends and family, stressful work environments, and lack of connection to the host community, including increased sexual violence, substance use, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (Aalhus, Oke, & Fumerton, 2018; Bond & Quinlan, 2018). Further, employees of industrial camps can carry other health care concerns that are non-work related or non-urgent, such as chronic conditions, injuries, and illnesses (Northern Health 2015).

Employees of temporary construction camps are often transient, young males and potential non-local workers of this demography can lead to regular interactions between the non-local workforce and local population, which may have effects on sexual health in the community and may subsequently increase the demand on health care services in Webequie First Nation (Goldenberg, 2008; Shandro et al., 2011). Women and girls between the ages of 15 to 44 residing in Webequie First Nation make up approximately 25% of the local population and are vulnerable to this change in demographics (Statistics Canada, 2022a; Gibson et al., 2017). Women and girls in the community with low income (see **Section 6.1**), low education (see **Section 5.5**), and those living with addictions (see **Section 5.3**) are particularly at risk and can cause an increased demand for services including police, sexual health, and gender-based violence services (e.g., shelters).

Potential non-local women employed by the Project may also be vulnerable to the high population of young males involved in the Project and can further increase the demand on health services. Health care services which may see increased demand as a result of this shift in demographics and subsequent increase in male-female interactions include sexual health services (i.e., increased rates of STIs) and maternal health services (i.e., increased rates of pregnancies) (Goldenberg, 2008; Shandro et al., 2011).

Knowledge holders further expressed concern for women's ability and willingness to seek services in the community due to social stigmas and feeling judged. The participant shared that this mindset is a result of intergenerational trauma from residential schools, as these institutions taught children to feel ashamed, and further stressed the importance of educating the community and spreading awareness that it is healthy and acceptable to ask for help and seek out services (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

5.3.2 Regional Study Area

The RSA Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following Community Services where information is available:

- Family Services;
- Child Care and Youth Programs;
- Elder Care;
- Health Services;
- Cultural Services; and
- Communication Services.

Communities described in the RSA include both Indigenous communities that are fly-in and also those connected to the provincial highway system, as well as municipalities that provide services to Indigenous communities in northern Ontario due to their relative proximity. The fly-in Indigenous communities in the RSA experience community services

similar to the fly-in communities in the LSA due to the remote nature, while other communities described in the RSA have a differing set of community services, with less concern over transportation access to regional service centres.

Community Legal Workers, provided through NAN, are available to support NAN members by offering legal, paralegal, and other law-related services. Community Legal Workers usually are the first point of contact for legal matters, and they assist in finding legal aid and lawyers. Although there are offices in Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins and Kenora, Community Legal Workers sometimes work from a First Nation community as well (Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services, 2024a). These services are present for Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakapewin First Nation, Wunnumin Lake First Nation, Mishkeegogamang Lake First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, and Long Lake #58 First Nation.

5.3.2.1 Indigenous Communities

5.3.2.1.1 Aroland First Nation

Community Services information for Aroland First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Aroland First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Aroland Council to provide child protection services to the families who reside in the District of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. Prior to Tikinagan, support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were reports of harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance, and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and family.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests with the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023ac).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improve the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling, and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023a).

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Aroland First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023b).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services. (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following (Matawa First Nation, 2023a):

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;
- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming.

The 4-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (Matawa First Nation, 2023a).

Services provided include:

- Safe and supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House Addictions Crisis Worker and Youth Residential Worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Health Services

Health Services are dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community. The Aroland Health Centre coordinates health care services provided by visiting health professionals such as home care and community health nurses, nurse practitioners, foot care nurse and diabetes educator at the Aroland Health Centre. The Centre provides health awareness and counselling, education, and prevention workshops. It also coordinates clinics in areas that may include immunization, sexual health, and communicable diseases.

The Health Centre addresses individual health care needs by providing advocacy on behalf of individuals with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. It also provides assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023c).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Aroland First Nation who are struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023d).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Aroland First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies, and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023e).

Immunization Clinic

The Immunization Clinic offers inoculations or other preventive measures to help individuals avoid specific controllable diseases. This clinic is designed to serve members of Aroland First Nation, ensuring that they receive the necessary vaccinations to protect against common illnesses (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023f).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides transportation services from/to Aroland First Nation Settlement to any medical appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist) in the towns of Nakina and Geraldton. Exceptions for travel to Thunder Bay are made on a case-by-case basis. This program also provides assistance with completing prior approval applications for long distance medical appointments and it is also designed to process Non-Insured Health Benefits Service claims. Eligibility for this program is limited to members of Aroland First Nation who require assistance with transportation to medical appointments or Non-Insured health benefits applications (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023g).

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services are offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental wellness team & crisis support services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families, or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support, and care coordination. The program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies & equipment, medical transportation, eye & vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are ones usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa NIHB Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the nine Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC)

Incorporated in 2017, the MHC is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and wellbeing for all members within the 9 Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada. The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes, and chronic diseases. It oversees an inter-professional primary care health team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

Internet Connectivity

Aroland First Nation obtains internet support through Rapid Lynx broadband project under Matawa First Nations Management (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022a). The project was initiated in 2020 for Phase I, which included improving and enhancing internet services across five communities: Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie First Nations with interconnection at Aroland First Nation. Phase II of this project is also currently planned, which will include connecting Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, and Long Lake #58 First Nations (Matawa First Nations, 2022). The connection will be fibre optic, and Aroland First Nation will host one of the main connection points/point of presence to connect to the fibre optic backbone network; and following completion of the network and community distribution networks, the Rapid Lynx backbone network will be connected from Aroland First Nation to Ginoogaming First Nation's 'Internet Gateway' (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022b).

As per 'Ontario Internet Access Map', Aroland First Nation has 66.4% internet access with 10/2 Mbps, 16.2% internet access with 25/5 Mbps, 17.3% internet access with 50/10 Mbps and 3.3% with LTS access (Connected North, 2023).

5.3.2.1.2 Constance Lake First Nation

Community Services information for Constance Lake First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal on social, community, health, and government services in northern Ontario.

Family Services

In 1989 Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, began operations as a child and family services agency serving the needs of children and families under Section 30 of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* (Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, 2023). Kunuwanimano has a mandate to deliver child welfare services to 11 First Nation communities within their catchment area. This mandate comes from both the Chiefs of the 11 First Nations and the Province of Ontario under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*. It was formed to eliminate all forms of abuse by providing services that encourage and support the healthy development of families and individuals in a manner that is appropriate to First Nations.

The programs take into consideration the best interests and well-being of the child, specifically the programs that recognize the uniqueness of First Nation's culture, heritage, and traditions of preserving a child's cultural identity.

Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services offers advocacy services in order to provide information and educate clients, Bands/Communities about their rights and responsibilities under the *Child and Family Services Act* (Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, 2023); provides culturally appropriate dispute resolution options to clients, bands, communities and Children's Aid Societies in the form of traditional mediation practices which include the "Circle"; as a method of practice; and provides information to clients communities and bands in regards to their rights to the legal system including referring to legal aid.

It also provides Band Representative Function to receive and respond to notices of hearings in relation to child welfare matters ensuring the pertinent Band/Community is notified according to the community services agreements; offers consultation and support to local Bands/Communities concerning band representative roles and responsibilities including case planning and assessments; and where requested, acts directly on notices in consultation with the Band/ Community as outlined in service agreements.

Kunuwanimano also offers Counselling and Referral services to provide individual or group counselling both individually or in groups for children, youth and adults; provides community presentations, self help groups, parenting and other support programs; provides referral services to local and outside service providers including treatment and healing centres, co dependency programs, physical and sexual abuse programs and other agencies that provide mental health services such as assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental and mood disorders; provides follow up services such

as after care counselling post treatment programming; and offers referral services for local children's aid societies as a means of assisting with plan of care requests (Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, 2023).

Kunuwanimano further offers Customary Care/Foster Care to its communities. This service's role is to recruit and retain Aboriginal Foster caregivers and homes in accordance to rules and regulations outline in the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*; provide training and support to Aboriginal Foster caregivers; provide assistance with voluntary/customary care placements within the catchment area; provide support and counselling services to children in care; provide consultation and advertising in areas relating to customary care and foster care procedures; provide preventative services at "grass roots level" including awareness on child welfare matters including roles and responsibilities of the customary care/foster care worker; provide workshops on traditional modes of care as defined by our First Nation Communities to prevent the removal of children from the First Nation/Communities; provide repatriation services where needed by offering assistance and guidance, consultation and referral services; encourage customary care arrangements where applicable as a least intrusive measure; and confirm the protection of children as is identified as the paramount purpose to the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* (Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, 2023).

Family Support and Prevention Services is also offered by Kunuwanimano. The role of this service is to provide training to new and existing prevention and family support workers as per community agreements; provide services and supports to First Nations on all child welfare and Band Representative issues; provide preventative programming to all First Nations members regardless of residency; promote awareness and encourage involvement at community level "grass roots" intervention regarding child and family services and other issues relating to family support; network with other service providers including the volunteer sector to enhance current working systems, exchange information and work collaboratively on community projects; develop and deliver programs at the community level in accordance to culture, tradition and heritage; and maintain overall responsibility for the financial management of the programs as outlined in the community service agreements (Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, 2023).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023a).

Food Bank

Constance Lake First Nation operates a Food Bank that provides non-perishable food items to individuals and families in emergency situations. It may also offer small amounts of milk and dairy dependent upon availability (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023b).

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Constance Lake First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48-hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023c).

Little Lambs Daycare Centre

Constance Lake First Nation operates a licensed daycare and an integrated program for children with special needs. Centre offers age-appropriate structured activities including art, baking, circle time, dramatic play, field trips, music, story time and special events. It also provides supervised, unstructured indoor and outdoor playtime and daily lunch and morning and afternoon snacks. Childcare options include full day, half day, after school and summer care.

Integrated Program for Special Needs provides individualized program planning geared to the specific needs of the child, promotes integration into all programs and provides one on one or group activities and support. Daycare enrollment is approximately 60 children. To enroll a child, there is a requirement for initial meeting/registration with Daycare Administrator. Parents/guardians who should also be members of Constance Lake First Nation must also present status card, birth certificate and immunization record of child/children. Eligibility of children for admission is as follows (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023d):

- Infants: Birth to 18 months;
- Toddlers: 18 months-2.5 years;
- Pre-school: Children 3-5 years of age;
- Kindergarten and school-age: 5-12 years of age; and
- Summer care: birth to 12 years of age.

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Elder's Residence

Constance Lake First Nation operates a senior's complex offering nursing and personal support care in 10 individual apartments and coordinates monthly shopping trips and a weekend summer trip for residents. Further, it also provides basic and advanced practice foot care, blood sugar monitoring, checking of vital signs, congregate dining, emergency transmitter system (panic buttons), housekeeping duties, medication assistance, nursing care five days per week and personal care.

These services are offered to members of Constance Lake First Nation who require home services due to age or disabilities. The eligibility is determined upon review by housing manager and home & community care case manager (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023e).

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Constance Lake First Nation community in the comfort of their own homes or at sunrise elder's complex. This service is provided by a case manager/nurse, personal support workers, and homemakers. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan, which is continuously monitored through case management to secure its effectiveness. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light

housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/ yard work (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023f).

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following (Matawa First Nation, 2023a):

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;
- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming.

The four-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (Matawa First Nation, 2023a).

Services provided include:

- Safe and Supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House Addictions Crisis Worker and Youth Residential Worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Health Services

Health Services are dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the Constance Lake First Nation community. The health centre provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops. The Centre also coordinates clinics in areas that may include blood pressure, immunization, sexual health and communicable diseases.

- Provides chronic disease management;
- Coordinates basic foot care sessions in individual's home or at clinic;
- Offers a diabetic clinic;
- Provides mental health counselling;
- Offers counselling services of a visiting trauma counsellor thee days per month; and
- Provides addictions counselling/services through North Cochrane Addiction Services (NCAS from Hearst) every month.

Addresses individual health care needs by providing:

- Locum clinic once per month;
- Nurse Practitioner clinics three times per month;
- Intake services to determine health care needs of individual; and
- Referrals to appropriate health care providers based on information in the intake assessment.

The Health Centre address individual health care needs by providing advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. It also provides assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023g).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Constance Lake First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. It also offers a 20-day treatment program combined with a 12-day aftercare program from the Treatment and Support Services building.

To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023h).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to the community members aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023i).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides transportation to medical appointments within the community and from/to Constance Lake First Nation Reserve to any medical appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist, specialist) in the towns of Calstock and Hearst. It also provides assistance with making arrangements for any medical appointments out of town such as booking appointments, hotels, and completing applications for mileage compensation.

This program also provides assistance with Non-Insured Health Benefits Service forms. Eligibility for this program is limited to members of Constance Lake First Nation who require assistance with transportation to medical appointments due to illness, age or disability or Non-Insured health benefits applications (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023j).

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services is offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental Wellness Team & Crisis Support Services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support and care coordination. the program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies and equipment, medical transportation, eye and vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are ones usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the 9 Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC)

Incorporated in 2017, the MHC is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and well being for all members within the 9 Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada. The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Program aims to support the development of sound mental health and provide services to individuals of Constance Lake First Nation experiencing mental health issues. The program provides information and awareness activities related to addictions, depression, family violence, and stress management. It also offers counseling services, cultural activities, feasts and ceremonies, group workshops, educational sessions that promote wellness, fitness activities coordination and referrals to psychologist, psychiatrist, other counselling services and treatment centres and coordination of aftercare services (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023k).

Internet Connectivity

Constance Lake First Nation is included within the planned Phase II of the Rapid Lynx long-haul fiber-optic network project through Matawa First Nations Management, which will provide fiber and optical equipment to connect the First Nation to other communities through broadband access. Phase Two construction is expected to begin in late 2022/ early 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2022). Phase II of this project will include connecting Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, and Long Lake #58 First Nations (Matawa First Nations, 2022).

Currently there is no fixed broadband internet available in Constance Lake First Nation, but internet connection with 5/1 Mbps is available throughout the community (Connected North, 2023).

5.3.2.1.3 Fort Albany First Nation

Community Services information for Fort Albany First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal on social, community, health, and government services in northern Ontario.

Child and Family Services

The Child and Family Services department is responsible for delivering childcare and protection services as well as family support services to members of the Fort Albany First Nation community. Payukotayno Child and Family Services is mandated as a Native Child Welfare Agency. The prevention services provided by the department include teaching parenting skills, developing healthy social and recreational programs for families, hosting community forums to address various issues, organizing Elders' meetings that address traditional child rearing methods, and providing information sessions about understanding substance dependency and family violence. The department also offers repatriation services, which involve processing requests to bring children in external foster care back to their homes within the community and providing advocacy on behalf of the child and family (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023a).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling, and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023b).

Mushkegowuk Council- Victim Services

This program provides immediate, short term crisis intervention services to individuals affected by crime and tragedy. It also provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services and confirms victims receive and continue to receive support and assistance. It advocates on behalf of victims and provides on-site or telephone assistance. It also offers the Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP) (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023a).

Some of the help provided to victims are:

- Cope with the impact of a traumatic event;
- Identify options and choices at a time when victims may need guidance and direction;
- Regain a sense of personal control;
- Return their life to a desired degree of stability; and
- Validate emotions and reactions.

The services also provide support in instances such as: assault, break and enter, death notification, domestic violence, elder abuse, homicide, motor vehicle accidents, multi-casualty occurrences, robbery, sexual assault and suicide.

It provides financial assistance for short term, early intervention counselling and transportation costs.

The eligibility conditions for these services include:

- Individuals aged 16 years of age and older;

- Must be one of the member First Nations within the Mushkegowuk Territory;
- Children under the age of 16 must have a parent or guardian present; and
- Individuals affected by crime and tragedy including victims of homicide, attempted murder, serious physical assault, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crime.

Mushkegowuk Council- Victim Quick Response Program+

This program provides assistance with emergency expenses related to the eligible incident, including home safety, accommodation, meals, transportation, basic necessities, dependent care costs, counselling, traditional indigenous health services, cellular phones, vision care, dental care, aids for victims with disabilities, interpretation services, crime scene cleanup, government/medical documents, and funeral expenses. It also provides additional assistance for victims of human trafficking such as storage lockers, tattoo removal, and treatment at a recovery facility.

This program does not provide direct reimbursement to victims for the mentioned support services. This program also provides financial support for victims who sustained serious physical injuries during a crime, parents of child homicide victims and spouses of homicide victims (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023b).

Women's Shelter

This facility coordinates the following support services for women and their children in Fort Albany First Nations in abusive situations:

- Helps women understand options to assist in making life choices;
- Assistance in accessing housing, legal and other community services; and
- Individual counselling.

It operates an emergency shelter for abused women and their children and a 24-hour crisis line (Northwest Health Line, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023).

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Fort Albany First Nation fmilies with children under 6 years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children’s library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child’s early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023c).

Day Care Centre

Fort Albany First Nation operates a licensed daycare centre that offers a variety of activities to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of children. It provides a variety of school readiness programs and 2 snacks and a hot lunch daily. It incorporates Native cultural programs with the daily community based programming (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023d).

It also offers full day programs for:

- Toddlers: 1.5 years – 2.5 years;
- Preschoolers: 2.5 years – 5 years; and
- School-aged: 6 years – 9 years.

Integrated Program for Special Needs

- Provides individualized program planning geared to the specific needs of the child;
- Promotes integration into all programs with resource teacher assistance as needed; and
- Provides one on one or group activities and support.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program

This program provides education and information on the consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, offers individual and group counselling sessions, offers parenting classes, and provides information sessions for teens (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023e).

It also provides advise to members of Fort Albany First Nation and the families of children who have been diagnosed with or are suspected of having FASD on the following:

- Alcohol Related Birth Defects;
- Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder;
- Fetal Alcohol Effects;
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome; and
- Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

The Art of Healing Program

The Art of Healing program hosts various youth focused art-based workshops and presentations both virtually and in person. The focus is how Art and Craft can be used as a coping and self exploration tool, as well as the therapeutic value that creating holds. The workshops and presentations are created and curated based on response from community's needs and goals as well as collaborations with other service providers and therapeutic techniques (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023c).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Fort Albany First Nation community. This service is provided by a Case Manager/Nurse, Personal Support Workers, and Homemakers. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan, which is continuously monitored through case management to verify its effectiveness. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023f).

Health Services

Health Services program is dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community. It provides a health centre for family medical care through a team of family doctors, nurse practitioners and other health care providers. It also provides health awareness and counselling, education, and prevention workshops. It also coordinates clinics in areas that may include immunization, sexual health, and communicable diseases. Additionally, it coordinates basic foot care sessions in individual's home or at clinic, offers a diabetic clinic and mental health counselling.

It also provides a full range of dental treatment offered by the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority and houses the Fort Albany Dental Clinic.

Farmers Market works as part of a relationship with Foodshare in Toronto. It provides affordable fresh fruits and vegetables to community members once every two weeks. The fresh produce is sold to community members at the Peetabeck Academy school cafeteria (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023g).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Fort Albany First Nation who are struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023h).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Fort Albany First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies, and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023i).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides transportation to medical appointments within the community and from/to Fort Albany First Nation Reserve to any medical appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist, specialist) in the towns of Moosonee or Timmins. It also provides assistance with making arrangements for any medical appointments out of town such as booking appointments, hotels, and completing applications for mileage compensation.

Eligibility for this program is limited to members of Fort Albany First Nation who require assistance with transportation to medical appointments due to age or health-related issues (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023j).

Mushkegowuk Council – Health Department

A department of Mushkegowuk Council currently provides dental hygiene, audiology, and optometric care to the communities they serve. The Mushkegowuk Council is the senior representative for seven First Nations in the western James Bay and Hudson Bay. These include Attawapiskat First Nation, Taykwa Tagamou First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Moose Cree First Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, and Missanabie Cree First Nation. A board of eight directors govern the Mushkegowuk Council (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023d).

5.3.2.1.4 Ginoogaming First Nation

Community Services information for Ginoogaming First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care's goal is to find better pathways to healing and well-being by caring for children and families, and the communities where they live. The Dilico Integrated Model of Care brings together a wide range of services and programs to support children, youth and families to live their good life – physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. They offer services, rooted in culture, that address diverse issues related to child welfare, mental health & addictions, and primary health.

Child Welfare Services at Dilico work to promote and enhance family strengths to confirm that the health, safety and well-being of Anishinabek children and families are upheld and protected. With a focus on prevention, early intervention, and protection, and in partnership with families and communities, children are cared for with respect for their cultural background and overall quality of life.

Since designation on April 1, 1995, Dilico's child welfare program has used traditional teachings, wisdom and practices of customary care. In 2011 – 2012, several Elders gathered from the Robinson-Superior Treaty area and named the customary care model Mikinaak, which means turtle in Ojibway. The teachings and strength of the turtle pushed the use of customary care services at Dilico to the next level of cultural competency and relevancy for Indigenous children, families, and communities. In 2012, with the support of the Elders and the First Nation community's knowledge and skills, a defined approach was taken to address child protection matters. Frequent case conferencing and providing supports to the entire family led to more children staying at home with their caregivers. The overall concept focused on healing instead of apprehension. Mikinaak Model of Care is still the guide Dilico follows, utilizing the wisdom and strength and a guided culturally appropriate response to child protection matters (Dilico, 2021a).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling, and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023a).

Social Support Services

Social Assistance Program is provided by Ginoogaming First Nation to its members whether or not they are on social assistance (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023b). The services include:

- Weekly lunch program for elementary and high school students at the Health Centre;
- Assistance with back-to-school supplies for all students of community;
- Annual grocery gift cards at Christmas for community members;
- Annual vouchers at Christmas for a turkey for all community Elders and band members;
- Baby supplies for every expectant mother on-reserve; and
- Baby shower for every new baby born to Ginoogaming First Nation members.

Child and Family Support Program

This program delivers childcare and protection services and family support services to Ginoogaming First Nation community members and administers services in partnership with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023c). Prevention Services are offered as part of the program which:

- Provides one-on-one counselling in areas such as bullying;
- Educates children, families and community about rights and responsibilities under the Child and Family Services Act;
- Advocates on behalf of clients and their rights in regard to the legal system;
- Offers a variety of parenting programs;
- Teaches parenting skills and assisting children through difficult times;
- Develops and administers healthy social and recreational programs for families;
- Hosts community forums to address issues such as youth struggling with problematic substance use, inadequate housing, schooling problems and after school activities;
- Organizes traditional healing circles with Elders for women and youth;
- Provides information sessions about understanding substance dependency and resulting family violence, and overcoming oppression by understanding cultural realities; and
- Provides referral services to local and outside service providers including treatment and healing centres.

Customary Care/Foster Care is also offered as part of the program which:

- Provides assistance with voluntary/customary care placements;
- Provides support and counselling services to children in care;
- Provides consultation and advertising in areas relating to customary care and foster care procedures; and
- Provides preventative services including awareness on child welfare matters including roles and responsibilities of the customary care/foster care worker.

Youth Outreach Program

Community-based intervention to assist youth 12 to 24 years of age living in at-risk neighborhoods. The program supports youth in their capacity to make healthy life choices and promotes the development of skills and civic participation, including community and peer leadership.

Service Overview:

- Services youth 12-21 years of age through direct engagement with youth on the streets;
- Youth Outreach Workers work in partnership with families, educators and community programs;
- Do not provide crisis intervention or transportation; not intended to be primary source of engagement; and
- Intended to reduce risk factors; lack of school engagement, anti-social peer group associations, low community attachment, lack of positive relationships with supportive adults, lack of services.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for the Ginoogaming First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family

for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023d).

Aboriginal Head Start Program

Ginoogaming First nation operates a licensed nursery school and offers programs to prepare young children for school years for the benefit of Ginoogaming First Nation members (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023e). It offers activities such as family gym time, arts and crafts, breakfast and circle time, school readiness programs and a pre-school library. It administers the Junior Kindergarten program for community. It participates in community events and special celebrations. This program offers daily programs focused on education, health and nutrition, Native culture and language, parental and family involvement and social support. There are full and half-day programs for following age groups:

- Infants: 6 months -18 months;
- Toddlers: 18 months – 30 months;
- Preschool: 2.5 years – 4 years;
- Junior Kindergarten: 4 years – 6 years; and
- School Age: 6 years – 12 years.

School Based Intensive Treatment Service

Provides a strength focused approach of mental health support and prevention services to address the needs of youth identified as experiencing difficulty functioning in a regular classroom environment due to social, emotional, or behavioural concerns (Dilico, 2021b).

Service Overview:

- Program runs from September to June of each year; youth attend daily;
- Effective, evidence-based practices;
- Assessment/Treatment/Behavioural Programming/Consultation and Follow-up;
- Partnership with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board for Academic Programming; and
- Transition support back to Community School.

Family Preservation Services

Supportive, intensive, home-based program providing short-term services for families with children/youth up to 18 years old, who are experiencing difficulties functioning as a family unit and/or children experiencing serious behavioural issues (Dilico, 2021b). The entire family must be willing to participate in the program to enhance the family's strength.

Service Overview:

- Services for approximately 4 to 6 months with direct access to workers;
- Provides effective, evidence-based practices;
- Assessment;
- Culturally based parenting strategies;
- Help families develop skills in effective parenting, behaviour & anger management, problem solving and communication; and
- Assists with accessing other support services.

Home for Good Program

Individuals experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless, will be identified, assessed, and placed into housing with the culturally appropriate supports; offered critical time intervention that jointly addresses many points of vulnerability (i.e., mental health crises, housing instability and justice involvement) while fostering resilience and connection with resources in employment, education and training domains (Dilico, 2021b).

Housing Outreach Program-Collaboration (HOP-C)

HOP-C provides wrap around housing and mental health supports for youth who are exiting homelessness or are at risk of being homeless (Dilico, 2021b). The services include:

- Case management;
- Cultural wellness supports;
- Counselling; and
- Peer mentorship.

Infant Child Development Services

Provides an integrated approach to infant and young child development in a family-centred intervention that is responsive to parent/ caregivers' strengths, competencies and priorities (Dilico, 2021b). This service assists infants/ children under the age of six years experiencing developmental/behavioural or social difficulties. Service includes:

- Home Visits;
- Screenings and Assessments (i.e., Fair Start);
- Individual Treatment Plans based on the family's vision;
- Therapeutic Play Sessions with children;
- Triple P Positive Parenting Program;
- Advocacy/work with other professionals to provide support needed; and
- Circle of Security Programming.

Native Child & Family Services

Services are provided in school-based setting, client family or community setting to assist youth who are experiencing issues related to historical trauma, addictions, suicide, sexual and physical abuse to strengthen the ability of youth to function effectively in their homes, school, and community (Dilico, 2021b). The native child and family worker is based at the Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School.

Osh-ki-niig Mash-ka-zii-win

A voluntary, intensive, residential treatment program lasting up to eight weeks for youth from five to 17 years of age with longstanding mental health and behavioural problems and who have been assessed as high risk (Dilico, 2021b).

Service Overview:

- Service is guided by the seven Sacred Teachings; Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth;
- Strength-Based Approach;
- Parental, Caregiver involvement required;
- Land-Based and Treatment-Focused Activities that promote Physical, Social and Cultural Benefits;
- In partnership with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board; three hours of educational instruction provided each day; and

- Planned discharge from an out-of-home service to support successful transitions.

Stop Now and Plan (SNAP®) Services

A proven program that teaches children with behavioural problems and their parent/caregiver(s) how to make better choices “in the moment” (Dilico, 2021b). The primary goal of SNAP® is to help children to stop and think before they act and keep them in school and out of trouble.

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Homemakers Program

Homemakers Program is designed to provide members of Ginoogaming First Nation who require assistance to remain in their own home due to age, illness, or injury. This service includes providing information, advocacy, and support to assist Elders to remain in their homes as long as possible. It also provides assistance with household chores, light housekeeping, gathering wood and water and needs in the home as they arise. Further, it provides accompaniment and return transportation for medical appointments and shopping in Longlac or out-of-town trips. It also acts as respite for informal caregivers such as extended family and provides social support for isolated or ill individuals (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023f).

Community and Personal Support Services (CPSS)

CPSS by Dilico Anishinabek Family Care provides assistance to Anishinabek people with essential daily activities at home, in the community or in long-term care facilities and hospitals (Dilico, 2021c). Community and Personal Support Workers support seniors, individuals with critical or long-term illness, and persons with disabilities or other personal health barriers. Our workers are friendly, caring and ready to assist with activities such as:

- Homemaking including shopping, meal preparation and cleaning;
- Personal care including bathing, washing, and dressing;
- Speech and language support to on-reserve schools;
- Transportation for medical appointments or errands;
- Palliative care;
- Basic foot care; and
- Respite care.

Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible for this service:

- Members living in the communities of Fort William, Red Rock (Lake Helen), Biingitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay), Pays Plat, Whitesand, Long Lake #58, Ginoogaming, Pic Mobert or Michipicoten First Nations; and
- Members with a child in the care of Dilico who is residing outside of the First Nation but requires additional support services. (Eligibility must be determined through an assessment with a Home and Community Care (HCC) Care Manager).

Crisis Intervention

Crisis Intervention provides immediate assistance to individuals of Ginoogaming First Nation affected by family violence and suicide. Their services are available on site or through a telephone call, and if necessary, they dispatch the police. The team confirms the safety of the victims and offers support and assistance. They can also arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions. Crisis intervention also coordinates a crisis plan for suicide and domestic violence intervention and any other form of crisis situations that may arise in the community. Additionally, they conduct information sessions and workshops on techniques for healing strategies. The support services offered include debriefing and stabilization following a crisis and advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies. Crisis intervention provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023g).

Immunization Clinic

This clinic provides inoculations or other measures to members of Ginoogaming First Nation from contracting specific controllable diseases (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023h).

Community Health Programs by Dilico include (Dilico, 2021d):

- Healthy sexuality;
- Prenatal and maternal health;
- Infant and preschool health; and
- School health.

Home and Community Care Services include (Dilico, 2021e):

- Nursing (Acute and Chronic Care);
- Discharge Planning;
- Physiotherapy;
- Occupational Therapy;
- Social Work;
- Speech and Language Pathology;
- Nutritional and Dietary Counselling;
- School Health Support;
- Personal Support; and
- Care Coordination.

The eligibility criteria for the Home and Community Care Services are:

- Individuals are eligible for this service if it is determined that they require professional health services, personal care, adult life enrichment, school health support services or any other community services; and
- Individuals from any of the following First Nations may be eligible for Dilico's Home and Community Care Services: Fort William, Lake Helen, Whitesand, Long Lake #58, Ginoogaming, Pays Plat, Pic Mobert, Michipicoten and Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek.

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis (Matawa First Nation, 2023a). Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following:

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;
- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming (Matawa First Nation, 2023a). The four-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (8pm to 6am daily).

Services provided include:

- Safe and Supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House Addictions Crisis Worker and Youth Residential Worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Health Services

Health Services are dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the Ginoogaming First Nation community. The health centre provides health awareness and counselling, education, and prevention workshops. It also coordinates clinics in areas that may include Immunization, Sexual Health, and Communicable Diseases. Services also include prenatal and postpartum health care, smoking cessation counselling and First Aid/CPR courses administered through Red Cross.

The Health Centre addresses individual health care needs by providing advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers, and persons with health care needs. It also provides assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments. Health Centre also provides intake services to determine health care needs of individual, referrals to appropriate health care providers based on information in the intake assessment and education and information about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023i).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Ginoogaming Nation struggling with alcohol and substance use, and gambling issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions,

and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023j).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Ginoogaming First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies, and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023k).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides transportation services from/to Ginoogaming First Nation Reserve to any medical appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist, specialist) in Longlac, Geraldton and Thunder Bay. It also provides transportation to medical appointments within the community and provides assistance with making arrangements for any medical appointments out of town such as booking appointments, hotels, and completing applications for mileage compensation. Eligibility for this program is limited to members of Ginoogaming First Nation who require assistance with transportation to medical appointments due to age or disability (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023l).

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services is offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental Wellness Team & Crisis Support Services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families, or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support, and care coordination. The program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities. It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies & equipment, medical transportation, eye & vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are ones usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the nine Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC)

Incorporated in 2017, the MHC is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and wellbeing for all members within the 9 Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives

Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada. The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes, and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI)

COHI is an early childhood tooth decay prevention program for children zero to seven years, their parents/caregivers and pregnant woman funded by Health Canada. COHI Services include annual screening, fluoride varnish applications, sealants and temporary fillings. A dental hygienist and COHI Aides deliver the program (First Nations Health Authority, 2023).

Cultural Services

Cultural Services offered by Dilico Anishinabek Family Care include (Dilico, 2023f):

- Home Visits: An Elder, along with cultural staff, visit a family at their home for cultural support and traditional counselling;
- Sacred Circles: An Elder to facilitate a sacred healing circle to deal with family issues, letting go, grief support, conflict resolution and more;
- Spirit Naming Ceremony: An Elder with the gift of retrieving names to give a spirit name to an individual in ceremony;
- Regalia-Making (Project Funded): Learn to use a sewing machine and the art of creating traditional regalia. The new regalia is feasted in ceremony before the Dilico annual powwow from April to June;
- Traditional Healing/Counselling: One-on-one appointment with an Elder and cultural employee. Our Traditional Healer may provide counselling, direction and provision of medicines and use of sacred items and specific gifts given to the Elder; and
- Traditional Parenting: An eight-module program based on Anishinabek teachings, history, and parenting practices.

Youth Program

Youth Program in Ginoogaming First Nation is responsible for planning, developing, and implementing all social, recreational, and special events for youth of the community (211 Ontario North, Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023m).

Recreation services and facilities in Ginoogaming First Nation include baseball diamond, gymnasium, skating rink and youth centre (former training centre). Youth Program provides assistance in organizing boys and girls' groups for a week at Dilico Summer Camp in East Loon Lake (Thunder Bay) and supervises and chairs a local youth council.

It also coordinates and supervises a variety of programs including game nights, group fitness classes, out-of-town excursions (such as youth rallies and cultural events), volleyball nights and youth workshops on topics of interest. These programs focus on youth members of Ginoogaming First Nation, but parents and community residents are encouraged to participate as well.

Internet Connectivity

Ginoogaming First Nation is included within the planned Phase II of the Rapid Lynx long-haul fiber-optic network project through Matawa First Nations Management, which will provide fiber and optical equipment to connect the First Nation to other communities through broadband access. Phase Two construction is expected to begin in late 2022/ early 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2022). Phase II of this project will include connecting Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, and Long Lake #58 First Nations (Matawa First Nations, 2022). The connection will be fibre optic, and Aroland First Nation will host one of the main connection points/ Point of Presence to connect to the fibre optic backbone network;

and following completion of the network and community distribution networks, the Rapid Lynx backbone network will be connected from Aroland First Nation to Ginoogaming First Nation's 'Internet Gateway' (Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, 2022b).

Ginoogaming First Nation currently has internet access as follows: 89.7% internet access with speed of 10/2 Mbps, 10.3% internet access with speed of 25/5 Mbps and 50% internet access with LTE (Connected North, 2023).

5.3.2.1.5 Kashechewan First Nation

Community Services information for Kashechewan First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Child and Family Services

The Child and Family Services department is responsible for delivering childcare and protection services as well as family support services to members of the Kashechewan First Nation community. Payukotayno Child and Family Services is mandated as a Native Child Welfare Agency. The prevention services provided by the department include teaching parenting skills, developing healthy social and recreational programs for families, hosting community forums to address various issues, organizing Elders' meetings that address traditional child rearing methods, and providing information sessions about understanding substance dependency and family violence. The department also offers repatriation services, which involve processing requests to bring children in external foster care back to their homes within the community and providing advocacy on behalf of the child and family (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023a).

Mushkegowuk Council- Victim Services

This program provides immediate, short term crisis intervention services to individuals affected by crime and tragedy (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023a). It also provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services and confirms victims receive and continue to receive support and assistance. It advocates on behalf of victims and provides on-site or telephone assistance. It also offers the VQRP.

Mushkegowuk Council- Victim Quick Response Program+

This program provides assistance with emergency expenses related to eligible incidents (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023b).

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for the Kashechewan First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023b).

Day Care Centre

Kashechewan First Nation operates a licensed daycare centre that offers a variety of activities to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical, and social development of children. It provides a variety of school readiness programs and two snacks and a hot lunch daily. It incorporates Native cultural programs with the daily community-based programming. It also offers full day programs for toddlers 1.5 years – 2.5 years, preschoolers: 2.5 years – 5 years, and school-aged 6 years – 9 years.

The integrated Program for Special Needs individuals include (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023d):

- Providing individualized program planning geared to the specific needs of the child;
- Promoting integration into all programs with resource teacher assistance as needed; and
- Providing one on one or group activities and support.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program

This program provides education and information on the consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, offers individual and group counselling sessions, offers parenting classes, and provides information sessions for teens (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023c). It also provides advise to members of Kashechewan First Nation and the families of children who have been diagnosed with or are suspected of having FASD on the following:

- Alcohol Related Birth Defects;
- Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder;
- Fetal Alcohol Effects;
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome; and
- Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

The Art of Healing Program

The Art of Healing program hosts various youth focused art-based workshops and presentations both virtually and in person. The focus is how art and craft can be used as a coping and self exploration tool, as well as the therapeutic value that creating holds. The workshops and presentations are created and curated based on response from community's needs and goals as well as collaborations with other service providers and therapeutic techniques (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023c).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Kashechewan First Nation community in their homes. This service is provided by a case manager/nurse, personal support workers, and homemakers. the team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan, which is continuously monitored through case management to verify its effectiveness. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023d).

Crisis Intervention

The Crisis Intervention program offers immediate assistance to individuals of Kashechewan First Nation impacted by family violence and suicide. This service provides on-site or telephone support and calls for police intervention when necessary. Crisis intervention confirms that victims receive the necessary support and assistance to secure their safety. Additionally, they arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions and offer advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies. The service provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services. Furthermore, Crisis intervention assists families in crisis situations (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023e).

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative provides education, screening, and case management for the prevention, management, and treatment of diabetes. The program works to reduce the number of avoidable complications that can arise from uncontrolled diabetes. It advises individuals on developing and implementing an approach to care and management of diabetes, helping them find appropriate services and making referrals to other health care professionals when necessary. Eligibility for this service is limited to members of Kashechewan First Nation who are living with diabetes or at-risk of developing it (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023f).

Health Services

Health Services program is dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the Kashechewan First Nation community. It collaborates with community partners to provide access to health care services and support. It also provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops. It also coordinates clinics in areas that may include immunization, sexual health, smoking cessation and communicable diseases. Health Services addresses individual health care needs by providing:

- Intake services to determine health care needs of individual;
- Referrals to appropriate health care providers based on information in the intake assessment;
- Advocacy and support on behalf of individual with other health professionals;
- Home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs; and
- Assistance with coordinating local and long distance travel arrangements for medical appointments.

Primary health care is provided through Kashechewan Nursing Station, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023g).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023h).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Kashechewan First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies, and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments.

To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023i).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides transportation to medical appointments within the community and from/to Kashechewan First Nation Reserve to any medical appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist, specialist Fort Albany Wing of James Bay General Hospital. It also provides assistance with making arrangements for any medical appointments out of town such as booking appointments, hotels, and completing applications for mileage compensation. This program is available to members of Kashechewan First Nation who require assistance with transportation for medical reasons (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023j).

Mushkegowuk Council – Health Department

A department of Mushkegowuk Council currently providing dental hygiene, audiology, and optometric care to the communities they serve (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023d).

5.3.2.1.6 Kingfisher Lake First Nation

Community Services information for Kingfisher Lake First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Kingfisher Lake First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Kingfisher Council to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. This recognizes that previously support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance, and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

On February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling, and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023a)

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Kingfisher Lake First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023a).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Home Support Program

This program is designed to assist Elders and/or families that have members with disabilities in their residence with routine household activities such as light housekeeping, laundry, shopping, meal preparation and personal care. This program provides household support for heavy and seasonal house cleaning, heavy outdoor work during the winter months (such as shovelling and firewood) and short-term loan of mobility aids such as walkers and raised toilet seats. It acts as respite for caregivers. This program is for members of Kingfisher Lake First Nation who require homemaking/home support assistance due to age (60 years and older) or living with a disability (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023b).

Diabetes Program

The Diabetes Program provides education, prevention, management and treatment services for Kingfisher Lake First Nation individuals living with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes. It provides case management and screening services, basic foot care services and referrals to other health care professionals. It works to reduce the number of avoidable complications that can arise from uncontrolled diabetes and helps patients develop and implement an

approach to care and management of diabetes. It further assists individuals in finding appropriate services (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023d).

Nursing Station

Nursing Station is dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community. It coordinates health care services through visiting community health nurses, visiting physicians and home care workers. It provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops in areas that may include childcare, diabetes, elders and chronic disease immunization, sexual health and communicable diseases.

The Nursing Station addresses individual health care needs by providing treatment of on-going health problems, emergency services, advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers, and persons with health care needs. It also provides assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023e).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Kingfisher Lake Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023f).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Kingfisher Lake First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies, and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023c).

Suboxone Treatment Program

The Suboxone Treatment Program provides a detoxification program for members of Kingfisher Lake First Nation who are struggling with prescription drug abuse and addiction. Operating as a day program, the initiative offers suboxone as a substitute for methadone to minimize the effects of withdrawal. The program includes intake, withdrawal treatment, counselling, and aftercare services. Additionally, the program provides mental health and addiction counselling, as well as referrals to other treatment centres and programs such as Nodin Child and Family Intervention Services in Sioux Lookout (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023g).

Community Mental Wellness Team

Shibogama First Nations Council Community Mental Wellness Team provides mental health supports and services in its communities including counselling, crisis support, clinical consultation, case management and workshops to support mental wellness. It aims to improve access to needed specialized services where gaps exist and coordinate training for community frontline workers (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023a).

Crisis Response Team

Shibogama First Nations Council Crisis Response Team promotes the safety of each community through the emergency response plans coordinated by the area resource teams. It facilitates intervention, counselling and support group services for community members who are experiencing some form of crisis. It offers service coordination service to mobilize local resources and support communities in the preparing of resources for the COVID-19 pandemic (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023b).

Youth Well-Being Team

It is a mental wellness program that provides support to Shibogama youth while they are away from their home communities attending Sioux North and Pelican Falls First Nation high school, as well as youth receiving specialized services/treatment while in Sioux Lookout. Some of the services offered include counselling, expressive arts therapy, land-based and cultural activities, and referrals for specialized services. This program also offers a variety of youth activities at the "Shib Crib" on Front Street in Sioux Lookout as a comfortable and safe environment where youth can claim the space as their own to socialize with their friends, while participating in positive lifestyle programming (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023c).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas. It also provides opportunity for workshops and education sessions for staff and patients (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023e).

KO Telehealth

The KO Telehealth partnered with member First Nations, the OTN, the MOHLTC, and FNIH to provide high-quality and cost-effective telehealth/telemedicine service that meets the health and wellness priorities of Ontario's most isolated communities, with a focus on First Nations requirements and community leadership. The use of information and communication technology supports various health, social, and economic development needs and anticipates the development of complementary health initiatives. The telehealth/ telemedicine service has significantly improved health outcomes for on-reserve populations, providing a culturally safe and competent service that bridges the gap in chronic health services access for remote First Nations communities. It has also demonstrated how health services can be delivered effectively across large and culturally diverse territories, building and strengthening communities' capacities while supporting health workers in their roles (KO Telemedicine, 2023).

Internet Connectivity

Kingfisher Lake First Nation currently has internet supplication as follows: 100% coverage with 5/1 Mbps internet speed (Connected North, 2023).

Kingfisher Lake First Nation is included within the 18 First Nations which will be provided with KNet upgrade to increase bandwidth on Northwestern Ontario Broadband Expansion Initiative (NWOBEI) Fibre Loop. The multi-year project will update the KNet and Bell fibre optic broadband network and increase bandwidth. The program also includes community technician training, site assessments, equipment installation at point of presence, wireless access points, and other components (KuhKenah Network, 2023).

5.3.2.1.7 Long Lake #58 First Nation

Community Services information for Long Lake #58 First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care's goal is to find better pathways to healing and well-being by caring for children and families, and the communities where they live. The Dilico Integrated Model of Care brings together a wide range of services and programs to support children, youth, and families to live their good life – physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. It offers services, rooted in culture, that address diverse issues related to child welfare, mental health & addictions, and primary health.

Child Welfare Services at Dilico work to promote and enhance family strengths to verify that the health, safety and well-being of Anishinabek children and families are upheld and protected. With a focus on prevention, early intervention and protection, and in partnership with families and communities, children are cared for with respect for their cultural background and overall quality of life. Since designation on April 1, 1995, Dilico's child welfare program has used traditional teachings, wisdom and practices of customary care.

In 2011 – 2012, several Elders gathered from the Robinson-Superior Treaty area and named the customary care model Mikinaak, which means turtle in Ojibway. The teachings and strength of the turtle pushed the use of customary care services at Dilico to the next level of cultural competency and relevancy for Indigenous children, families and communities. In 2012, with the support of the Elders and the First Nation community's knowledge and skills, a defined approach was taken to address child protection matters. Frequent case conferencing and providing supports to the entire family led to more children staying at home with their caregivers. The overall concept focused on healing instead of apprehension.

Mikinaak Model of Care is still the guide Dilico follows, utilizing the wisdom and strength and a guided culturally appropriate response to child protection matters (Dilico, 2021a).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is an Anishinabek Nation/Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023a).

Social Services

Social Services program provides similar services to Indigenous Peoples as Service Ontario/Service Canada provides to non-Indigenous peoples. It also provides assistance and advisory with issues relating to Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board and Employment Insurance. Residents of Long Lake #58 First Nation 16 to 65 years of age can access these services (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023b).

Other services and programs offered include:

- Community Liaison and Development;
- Digital skills and Internet café;
- Employment and Training;
- Homemakers;
- Ontario Works; and
- Work placement.

Child and Family Support Program

This program delivers childcare and protection services and family support services to community members and administers services in partnership with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023c).

Prevention Services offered as part of the program include:

- Provides one-on-one counselling in areas such as bullying;
- Educates children, families and community about rights and responsibilities under the *Child and Family Services Act*;
- Advocates on behalf of clients and their rights in regard to the legal system;
- Offers a variety of parenting programs;
- Teaches parenting skills and assisting children through difficult times;
- Develops and administers healthy social and recreational programs for families;
- Hosts community forums to address issues such as youth struggling with problematic substance use, inadequate housing, schooling problems and after school activities;
- Organizes traditional healing circles with Elders for women and youth;
- Provides information sessions about understanding substance dependency and resulting family violence, and overcoming oppression by understanding cultural realities; and
- Provides referral services to local and outside service providers including treatment and healing centres.

Customary Care/Foster Care is also offered as part of the program and it:

- Provides assistance with voluntary/customary care placements;
- Provides support and counselling services to children in care;
- Provides consultation and advertising in areas relating to customary care and foster care procedures; and
- Provides preventative services including awareness on child welfare matters including roles and responsibilities of the customary care/foster care worker.

Youth Outreach Program

Community-based intervention to assist youth 12 to 24 years of age living in at-risk neighborhoods. The program supports youth in their capacity to make healthy life choices and promotes the development of skills and civic participation, including community and peer leadership (Dilico, 2021b). Service Overview:

- Services youth 12-21 years of age through direct engagement with youth on the streets;
- Youth Outreach Workers work in partnership with families, educators and community programs;
- Do not provide crisis intervention or transportation; not intended to be primary source of engagement; and
- Intended to reduce risk factors; lack of school engagement, anti-social peer group associations, low community attachment, lack of positive relationships with supportive adults, lack of services.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Long Lake #58 First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare

the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Long Lake #58 First Nation, 2023c).

School Based Services by Dilico

School Based Intensive Treatment Service provides a strength focused approach of mental health support and prevention services to address the needs of youth identified as experiencing difficulty functioning in a regular classroom environment due to social, emotional or behavioural concerns (Dilico, 2021b). Service Overview:

- Program runs from September to June of each year; youth attend daily;
- Effective, evidence-based practices usage;
- Assessment/Treatment/Behavioural Programming/Consultation and Follow up;
- Partnership with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board for Academic Programming; and
- Transition support back to Community School.

Family Preservation Services

Supportive, intensive, home-based program providing short-term services for families with children/youth up to 18 years old, who are experiencing difficulties functioning as a family unit and/or children experiencing serious behavioural issues. The entire family must be willing to participate in the program to enhance the family's strength (Dilico, 2021b). Service Overview:

- Services for approximately 4-6 months with direct access to workers;
- Provides effective, evidence-based practices;
- Assessment;
- Culturally based parenting strategies;
- Help families develop skills in effective parenting, behaviour and anger management, problem solving and communication; and
- Assists with accessing other support services.

Home for Good Program

Individuals experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless, will be identified, assessed, and placed into housing with the culturally appropriate supports; offered critical time intervention that jointly addresses many points of vulnerability (i.e., Mental Health crises, housing instability and Justice involvement) while fostering resilience and connection with resources in employment, education and training domains (Dilico, 2021b).

Housing Outreach Program-Collaboration (HOP-C)

HOP-C provides wrap around housing and mental health supports for youth who are exiting homelessness or are at risk of being homeless (Dilico, 2021b). Services provided include:

- Case management;
- Cultural wellness supports;
- Counselling; and
- Peer mentorship.

Infant Child Development Services

Provides an integrated approach to infant and young child development in a family-centred intervention that is responsive to parent/caregivers' strengths, competencies and priorities (Dilico, 2021b). Service Overview:

- Home Visits;
- Screenings and Assessments (i.e., Fair Start);
- Individual Treatment Plans based on the family's vision;
- Therapeutic Play Sessions with children;
- Triple-P Positive Parenting Program;
- Advocacy/work with other professionals to provide support needed; and
- Circle of Security Programming.

Native Child & Family Services

Services are provided in school-based setting, client family or community setting to assist youth who are experiencing issues related to historical trauma, addictions, suicide, sexual and physical abuse to strengthen the ability of youth to function effectively in their homes, school and community. The Native Child & Family Worker is based at the Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (Dilico, 2021b).

Osh-ki-niig Mash-ka-zii-win

A voluntary, intensive, residential treatment program lasting up to eight weeks for youth from five to 17 years of age with longstanding mental health and behavioural problems and who have been assessed as high risk (Dilico, 2021b). Service Overview:

- Service is guided by the seven Sacred Teachings; Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth;
- Strength-Based Approach;
- Parental, Caregiver involvement required;
- Land-Based and Treatment-Focused Activities that promote Physical, Social and Cultural Benefits;
- In partnership with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board; three hours of educational instruction provided each day; and
- Planned discharge from an out-of-home service to support successful transitions.

Stop Now and Plan (SNAP®) Services

A proven program that teaches children with behavioural problems and their parent/caregiver(s) how to make better choices "in the moment". The primary goal of SNAP® is to help children to stop and think before they act and keep them in school and out of trouble (Dilico, 2021b). Service Overview:

- For youth ages 6 to 11, experiencing serious behavioural problems at home, at school, with persons in authority;
- Suitable for children with multiple risk factors and challenges (e.g., lower grades, dropping out of high school, mental or physical health issues) and are at a greater risk of criminal/violent behaviour;
- Evidence-based model; and
- Supports the improvement of parent/caregiver-child relationships by teaching effective parenting/caregiving skills.

Day Care Centre

Long Lake #58 First Nation operates a licensed daycare centre and it offers a variety of activities to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of children. It also provides a variety of school readiness programs and two snacks and a hot lunch daily. It also incorporates Native cultural programs with the daily

community-based programming and offers full day and part-time programs for Toddlers, Preschoolers, Before/after school and Lunch program.

The eligibility for admission for the Day Care Centre is as follows:

- Toddlers: children 18-30 months of age;
- Preschool: children 30 months – 6 years of age; and
- Before/after school and lunch program: children up to 12 years of age.

It also administers the Aboriginal Head Start Program at this location (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023d).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Community and Personal Support Services (CPSS)

CPSS by Dilico Anishinabek Family Care provides assistance to Anishinabek people with essential daily activities at home, in the community or in long-term care facilities and hospitals (Dilico, 2021c).

Community and Personal Support Workers support seniors, individuals with critical or long-term illness, and persons with disabilities or other personal health barriers. CPSS workers assist with activities such as:

- Homemaking including shopping, meal preparation and cleaning;
- Personal care including bathing, washing and dressing;
- Speech and language support to on-reserve schools;
- Transportation for medical appointments or errands;
- Palliative care;
- Basic foot care; and
- Respite care.

Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible for this service:

- Members living in the communities of Fort William, Red Rock (Lake Helen), Biingitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay), Pays Plat, Whitesand, Long Lake #58, Ginoogaming, Pic Mobert or Michipicoten First Nations; and
- Members with a child in the care of Dilico who is residing outside of the First Nation but requires additional support services (Eligibility must be determined through an assessment with a HCC Care Manager).

Immunization clinic

This clinic provides inoculations or other measures to members of Long Lake #58 First Nation from contracting specific controllable diseases (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023e).

Community Health Programs by Dilico include:

- Healthy sexuality;
- Prenatal and maternal health;
- Infant and preschool health; and
- School health.

Home and Community Care Services include:

- Nursing (acute and chronic care);
- Discharge planning;
- Physiotherapy;
- Occupational therapy;
- Social work;
- Speech and language pathology;
- Nutritional and dietary counselling;
- School health support;
- Personal support; and
- Care coordination.

This service is available based on following eligibility conditions:

- Individuals are eligible for this service if it is determined that they require professional health services, personal care, adult life enrichment, school health support services or any other community services; and
- Individuals from any of the following First Nations may be eligible for Dilico's Home and Community Care Services: Fort William, Lake Helen, Whitesand, Long Lake #58, Ginoogaming, Pays Plat, Pic Mobert, Michipicoten and Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek.

Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program

The Matawa Regional Crisis Intervention Program provides free, confidential crisis support and follow-up for Matawa members regardless of residence on a 24 hour / 7 day a week basis. Translation services are also provided. The program also provides the following (Matawa First Nation, 2023a):

- Crisis assessment/intervention;
- Crisis counselling/de-briefing;
- Outreach calls through Nodin counselling services;
- Support to family and friends;
- Referrals to professionals;
- Case management/review; and
- Community awareness/healing plans.

Matawa Safe Sobering Site

The Matawa Safe Sobering Site provides intoxicated youth between the ages of 13 and 21, with a safe, home-like environment to become stabilized before being referred to further mental health or addictions programming (Matawa First Nation, 2023a). The four-bed site is available to Matawa students on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. Transportation is available to and from the site if needed, through Matawa On-Call Student Services (8 pm to 6 am daily). Services provided include:

- Safe and supervised detoxification and stabilization support;
- In-House addictions crisis worker and youth residential worker to provide immediate crisis assessment and intervention;
- Referrals to St. Josephs Care Group for addictions case-management and after-care planning; and
- After-care planning and referrals to other community- based programs as needed.

Health Centre

Health Services are dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community. The Health Centre provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops. It also coordinates clinics in areas that may include Immunization, Sexual Health and Communicable Diseases. Services also include prenatal and postpartum health care, smoking cessation counselling and First Aid/CPR courses. It also partners with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and Matawa Tribal Council to offer local health programs.

Health Services address individual health care needs by providing advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. It also provides assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments. Health Centre also provides intake services to determine health care needs of individual, referrals to appropriate health care providers based on information in the intake assessment and education and information about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023f).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Long Lake #58 First Nation who are struggling with alcohol and substance use, and gambling issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023g).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. The program is open to members of Long Lake #58 First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits are based on need and may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023h).

Medical Transportation Program

The Medical Transportation Program provides transportation services from/to Long Lake #58 First Nation Reserve to any medical appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist, specialist) in Longlac, Geraldton and Thunder Bay. It also provides transportation to medical appointments within the community and provides assistance with making arrangements for any medical appointments out of town such as booking appointments, hotels, and completing applications for mileage compensation. Eligibility for this program is limited to members of Long Lake #58 First Nation who require assistance with transportation to medical appointments due to age or disability (211 Ontario North, Long Lake 58 First Nation, 2023i).

Traditional Healing Services

Traditional healing services is offered by Matawa First Nations Management. Mental wellness team and crisis support services provide a rapid response to Matawa First Nations communities, families or individuals when they experience crisis. The services include grief/trauma counseling, cultural support and care coordination. The program's approach is to provide service with a balance of clinical and traditional cultural practices (Matawa First Nation, 2023b).

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program

The NIHB program is a national program which is designed to support First Nations people in reaching an overall health status that is comparable with Canadians. The program designed to help individuals maintain their health, prevent disease, assist in detecting and managing illnesses, injuries, and disabilities (Matawa First Nation, 2023c). It may cover the costs of some, or all of the following: dental, medical supplies & equipment, medical transportation, eye & vision care, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling, and health benefits outside of Canada.

The NIHB program may provide medically necessary goods and services when they are not covered by provincial or other third-party health plans. Third party health plans are usually provided by private insurance companies through a paid premium by the purchasing individual. The benefits and services of the NIHB Program are often coordinated with other insured health care programs offered in Ontario.

Matawa Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Client Navigator

The Matawa NIHB Client Navigator assists the nine Matawa First Nations and its' members who are clients of NIHB services to provide support, advocacy and coordination of care and services. The program works in collaboration with First Nations health staff, other health care providers, organizations, and institutions to facilitate improved care. The program also assists members to access Jordan's Principle resources (Matawa First Nation, 2023c).

Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC)

Incorporated in 2017, the MHC is a Matawa First Nation owned and controlled health co-operative that provides health care services to enhance existing health services to achieve long-term health and wellbeing for all members within the 9 Matawa First Nations. It is overseen by a Board of Directors and is a member of the Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada. The MHC is community-driven with available services being tailored to individual community's needs. It is the first of its kind in Canada.

The MHC works to incorporate traditional healing and medicines in addressing the holistic health needs of the Matawa First Nations focusing on the priorities of mental health and addictions, diabetes and chronic diseases. It oversees an Inter-Professional Primary Care Health Team providing direct services in the Matawa First Nations or through telemedicine (Matawa First Nation, 2023d).

Children's Oral Health (COHI)

COHI is an early childhood tooth decay prevention program for children zero to seven years, their parents/caregivers and pregnant woman funded by Health Canada. COHI Services include annual screening, fluoride varnish applications, sealants and temporary fillings. A dental hygienist and COHI Aides deliver the program (First Nations Health Authority, 2023).

Internet Connectivity

Long Lake #58 First Nation is included within the planned Phase II of the Rapid Lynx long-haul fiber-optic network project through Matawa First Nations Management, which will provide fiber and optical equipment to connect the First Nation to other communities through broadband access. Phase Two construction is expected to begin in late 2022/early 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2022). Phase II of this project will include connecting Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, and Long Lake #58 First Nations (Matawa First Nations, 2022).

Currently Long Lake #58 First Nation has an internet coverage as follows: 47.9% with 10/2 Mbps speed, 52.1% with 25/5 Mbps speed, and 100% LTE access (Connected North, 2023).

Cultural Services

Cultural Services offered by Dilico Anishinabek Family care (Dilico, 2023f) are as follows:

- Home Visits: An Elder, along with cultural staff, visit a family at their home for cultural support and traditional counselling.
- Sacred Circles: An Elder to facilitate a sacred healing circle to deal with family issues, letting go, grief support, conflict resolution and more.
- Spirit Naming Ceremony: An Elder with the gift of retrieving names to give a spirit name to an individual in ceremony.
- Regalia-Making (Project Funded): Learn to use a sewing machine and the art of creating traditional regalia. The new regalia is feasted in ceremony before the Dilico annual powwow from April to June.
- Traditional Healing/Counselling: One-on-one appointment with an Elder and cultural employee. Our Traditional Healer may provide counselling, direction and provision of medicines and use of sacred items and specific gifts given to the Elder.
- Traditional Parenting: An 8-module program based on Anishinabek teachings, history and parenting practices.

5.3.2.1.8 Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation

Community Services information for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Wunnumin Council to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. Prior to Tikinagan support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity. The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Women's Shelter

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation operates a short-term emergency shelter for abused women and their children and operates a 24-hour crisis line. This facility can accommodate a maximum of 12 individuals. It also helps women understand options to assist in making life choices, offers assistance in accessing housing, legal and other community services and provides individual counselling (Northwest Health Line, 2023a).

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care (Baby's Best Chance), organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children’s library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child’s early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023a).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services. The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation community who require assistance to stay in their home. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work. This service is provided through a Case Manager/Nurse, Personal Support Workers and Homemakers (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023b).

Health Department

Health Department is dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community and coordinates health care services through the Nursing Station. Health care team consists of community health representatives, nurse practitioner, home support workers and visiting doctors, dentists and specialists. It provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops in areas that may include diabetes, immunization, sexual health and communicable diseases. Further, it provides services of visiting doctors through a contract agreement with Independent First Nations Alliance and Anton Meyers Doctors.

The Department addresses individual health care needs by providing treatment of on-going health problems, emergency services, dental care including children's oral health, advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. It also provides assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023c).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas. Further, it allows for consultations for patients with specialty services such as physiotherapy and provides opportunity for workshops and education sessions for staff and patients (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023d).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to band services, social services, detoxification and treatment centres and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023d).

Mamow Against Drugs Healing Program

This operates a treatment centre for community members struggling with oxycodone addiction. This facility operates a 25-day program for a maximum of 6 individuals per program. As part of the program, it administers medications to minimize the effects of withdrawal and alternates between men and women intakes. The program includes intake, detoxification and withdrawal treatment, counselling, sharing circles, traditional land-based activities and aftercare services. Additionally, the program provides mental health and addiction counselling, as well as referrals to other treatment centres and programs such as Nodin Child and Family Intervention Services in Sioux Lookout (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023e).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023f).

Home and Community Care – Physiotherapy Services

This program provides rehabilitative care to help people preserve or regain independence in-home or at nursing station depending on client. These services may include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and case management (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023g).

Medical Transportation Program

Medical Transportation Program provides medical transportation services and assistance in making medical appointment arrangements to members of the community. It provides transportation within the community for individuals accessing the Nursing station or Health office while also providing assistance with completing prior approval applications for long distance medical appointments. It also offers assistance with arrangements for accommodation and travel details for individuals attending medical appointments out of community including Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre or Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital.

This program also provides assistance in processing Non-Insured Health Service claims for community and Band members. This program also submits medical appointment travel, mileage, meal and accommodation requests on behalf of individual. It assists with making travel arrangements and maintains client documentation, receipts and related information (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023h).

Mental Health Program

Mental Health Program aims to promote good mental health and provide services for individuals with mental health issues in the community. It provides information, services and activities in areas such as depression, family violence and stress management. It provides counselling services, cultural activities and craft, recreational activities and wellness activities (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023i).

Youth Centre

This program is responsible for planning, developing and implementing all social, recreational and special events for children and youth of the community. It provides various activities such as arts and crafts, video game nights, movie nights and sports events and organizes various outdoor activities for youth during summer months such as baseball, basketball, soccer, dodgeball and frisbee. It also assists with community events such as feasts, sports tournaments and Homecoming celebration.

Community events and facilities in the community include community hall, indoor arena (includes Fitness Centre), outdoor rink, basketball court, baseball fields and track/field area, winter, spring and summer carnivals, Bingos, raffles, radio/television auctions, rummage/bake sales and walkathons (211 Ontario North, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, 2023j).

Internet Connectivity

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation is included within the 18 First Nations which will be provided with KNet upgrade to increase bandwidth on NWOBEI Fibre Loop. The multi-year project will update the KNet and Bell fibre optic broadband network and increase bandwidth. The program also includes community technician training, site assessments, equipment installation at point of presence, wireless access points, and other components (KuhKenah Network, 2023).

Currently, internet coverage at the First Nations is as follows (Connected North, 2023): 3.91% with no fixed broadband, and 96.1% with 5/1 Mbps speed coverage.

5.3.2.1.9 Métis Nation of Ontario

Community Services information for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has been collected from the Métis Nation of Ontario website (www.metisnation.org). The Métis Nation of Ontario is a collective group created in 1993 of individuals and communities that identify and are part of Métis Nation in Ontario (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023b).

Family Services

- Métis Nation of Ontario Victim Services Program – provides services to address, deter, and end violence against Métis women and children. Services include: addressing mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual impacts of victimization; culturally grounded support to prevent, deter, and end violence against Indigenous victims and help victims heal.
- Métis Nation of Ontario Community Justice Services Program – provides legal advice and support to members of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Services include: access to alternatives to the criminal justice system, providing legal options and avenues, and assisting clients in accessing legal resources.
- Community Wellness Workers Program – provides a holistic approach to promote healthy living, prevent family violence, and promote healthy lifestyles through culture-based programming.
- Métis Family Wellbeing Program – provides services to prevent family violence through supportive, preventative, and educational activities for families.
- Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council – a council of Métis women who promote and assists in addressing women's issues and advocates on women's behalf within the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Child Care

- Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program – assists children and families to secure that Métis families have the resources and knowledge to live a healthy life.
- Canada Pre-Natal Nutrition Program – helps at-risk Indigenous children zero to six months of age and their families by providing access to resources that support healthy pregnancies and early infant nutrition.
- Community Action Program for Children – helps Métis children at risk and their parents through promoting healthy lifestyle choices, providing access to cultural teachings and community development, and training to live a healthier life.
- Education Support Advocacy Program – provides support for Métis families with youths from kindergarten to grade 12 who are experiencing issues and/or challenges in school.
- Early Learning & Child Care – provides and improves access to culturally grounded early learning opportunities for Métis children and families, through promoting community development and providing opportunities to children to learn off the land and grow within their culture.
- Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council – a group of youth representatives across Ontario who seek to help Métis youths across the province. The group identifies and addresses issues with Métis youths and promote youth initiatives.

Elder Care

- Aging at Home Program – provides support to Indigenous seniors 55 years of age or older through home support and contracted services to help them live independently in their homes.

Health Services

- Mental Health and Addictions Program – provides various mental health and addiction services to Métis children, youth, and adults. Services include case management, mental health and addiction assessment, individual counselling, family therapy and parent coaching, addictions counselling, and psychiatric/psychology/psychotherapy services.
- Gaming & Gambling Awareness Program – provides services to improve the quality of life of others and promote positive change and life balance. Services include interactive workshops, training, assessments, brief counselling, and other mental health supports.
- Community Support Services Program – provides information, advocacy, and practical support for individuals that remain in their homes and require a caregiver. Services include friendly visitations from Métis Nation of Ontario staff and volunteers, medical transportation services, and caregiver services.
- Anti-Human Trafficking Program – provides support to communities through community engagement to raise awareness of human trafficking and provide information and resources to combat human trafficking.
- Diabetes Awareness Strategy – a project that provides resources and information about diabetes risk factors and complications to Métis people. Services include medical diagnosis of diabetes, financial support for dialysis appointments, resources to mitigate diabetes, and community education resources on diabetes.
- Cancer Care – Métis Nation of Ontario works with Ontario Health's Indigenous Cancer Care Unit to reduce inequities in care and access to cancer services. Services include breast cancer, lung cancer, cervical cancer, and colorectal cancer.
- Health Research Initiatives and Projects – the MNO undertakes research projects every year to understand the health needs of the Métis people. Projects include the ongoing Chronic Disease Surveillance Program, Our Health Counts Program, Youth Identity Project, Indigenous Knowledge Network Initiative, and the Healthy Messaging Project.

5.3.2.1.10 Mishkeegogamang First Nation

Community Services information for Mishkeegogamang First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Mishkeegogamang First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Mishkeegogamang Council to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. Prior to Tikinagan support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were reports of harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity. The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023a).

Women's Shelter

Mishkeegogamang First Nation operates a short-term emergency shelter for women who have been victims of physical, emotional, sexual or financial abuse aged 18 years and older, from a First Nation community in the Sioux Lookout District. It provides public education workshops and seminars to raise awareness about the issues and impacts of violence against women and children. It accepts donations of money, furniture, lightly used clothing or any household items or appliances. The maximum length of stay is six weeks (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023b).

This facility provides a 24-hour crisis line and offers services like advocacy, child support worker, counselling, court accompaniment and referrals, emergency transportation, referral to community services, transition and safety planning. The transition planning support services offered by this facility includes:

- Counselling;
- Educational upgrading;
- Health and wellness services;
- Housing;
- Income support;
- Job training;
- Legal assistance/legal aid; and
- Parental support.

Brighter Futures Program

This program offers a variety of programming to support expecting parents and families with young children in Mishkeegogamang First Nation. It promotes and supports healthy pregnancies, child development and family living. The program participants are provided access to emergency food when required, facilitated parenting groups, free clothing exchange, home visits post birth to offer support to new mothers, home visits pre-birth to prepare family for new arrival, indoor playground, prenatal food supplements and prenatal nutrition groups. Transportation and childcare is also made available to all participants (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023c).

Healthy Childhood Development

The Healthy Childhood Development program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Mishkeegogamang First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program coordinates services in partnership with the FASD/Fetal Alcohol Effects Program. It provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care (Baby's Best Chance), organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023d).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Mishkeegogamang First Nation community who require assistance to stay in their home. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023e).

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

The Diabetes Program provides education, prevention, management and treatment services for Mishkeegogamang First Nation individuals living with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes. It provides case management and screening services, basic foot care services and referrals to other health care professionals. It works to reduce the number of avoidable complications that can arise from uncontrolled diabetes and helps patients develop and implement an approach to care and management of diabetes. It further assists individuals in finding appropriate services referrals to other health care professionals and the Northern Diabetes Health Network. It also coordinates education and awareness activities for Health Centre staff such as healthy breakfasts, group walking events and health-related videos (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023f).

Nursing Station

Nursing Station focuses on promoting physical and mental health for community members. It coordinates health care services through Nursing staff, two Community Health Representatives and visiting community Physician. It provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops especially in the areas of diabetes and alcohol/drug abuse by coordinating clinics/workshops in areas that may include Diabetes, Immunization, Sexual Health and Communicable Diseases. It also offers a palliative care program when required and provides services of a First Response Vehicle. It participates in teaching with a regular rotation of medical students and residents from Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

It takes care of individual health care needs though advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordination of one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse and home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. It also provides a suboxone program for individuals battling addictions to prescription painkillers. Further, it offers assistance with coordinating local and long distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023g).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers access to specialized medical care through videoconferencing and tele-diagnostic equipment. It allows remote specialists to examine and prescribe treatments for patients in their home communities, including consultations for specialty services such as physio and diabetes. OTN also provides opportunities for workshops and education sessions for staff and patients. With this service, patients can receive care without having to travel, reducing the need for transportation and potentially improving access to care (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023g).

Mishkeegogamang First Nation participates in Thunder Bay's Regional Critical Care Response Program as a pilot site with other First Nation communities which enables patients to now be triaged and cared for by critical care doctors and other highly skilled staff at Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre's Intensive Care Unit via videoconferencing equipment prior to air transfer via Ornge (formerly Ontario Air Ambulance).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Mishkeegogamang First Nation who are struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to band services, social services, detoxification and treatment centres and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023h).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Mishkeegogamang First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023i).

Home and Community Care – Physiotherapy Services

This program provides rehabilitative care to help people preserve or regain independence in-home or at nursing station depending on client. These services may include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and case management (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023j).

Immunization Clinic

Immunization clinic provides inoculations or other measures to prevent people from contracting specific controllable diseases (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023k).

Addictions Treatment Program

Addictions Treatment Program **o**ffers a family treatment program designed to support Mishkeegogamang First Nation families in overcoming addictions and trauma in their lives. It operates as a 14-day residential family program at the Pashkokogan Lodge which is located on traditional territory and only accessible by boat in the summer. It begins with family assessment to determine issues and to identify which areas need to be addressed. It is designed to promote regaining a strong spiritual connection to the land and encourages sharing as part of the healing process and includes various group activities such as cleaning, cooking, and traditional activities like setting fish nets and moose hunts.

This program can include alcohol and drug education, individual and group counselling, sharing circles, teaching of life skills and personal development, individual and family treatment planning, recreation and work therapy and traditional, spiritual and cultural healing. It also includes follow-up and aftercare plan including referrals to community services for ongoing support and care (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023l).

Medical Transportation Program

Medical Transportation Program provides medical transportation services and assistance in making medical appointment arrangements to members of the Mishkeegogamang First Nation community. It provides transportation within the community for medical appointments. It also offers assistance with transportation and/or assistance from/to Mishkeegogamang First Nation to medical appointments (doctor, dentist, optometrist, specialist) in Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay and Winnipeg. It also provides assistance with making arrangements for any medical appointments out of town such as booking appointments, hotels, and completing applications for mileage compensation (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023m).

Travel Clerk

Travel Clerk service is responsible for processing Non-Insured Health Service claims for community and Band members. This service submits medical appointment travel, mileage, meal and accommodation requests on behalf of individual. It also assists patients with making travel arrangements and maintains client documentation, receipts and related information (211 Ontario North, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2023n).

Internet Connectivity

Two broadband towers to provide internet for the community are being planned with Keewaytinook Okimakanak and KNet and Mishkeegomang First Nation members will be assisting in the infrastructural development. Connection to Bell and wireless equipment will be carried out by KNet, along with provision of training a community member as a technician (Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, 2022).

Internet connectivity for the First Nation is also available through Bell Canada (provides telephone, cellular, television and internet services), Starlink, Shaw, Xplornet, Virgin Mobile, Kuhkenah Network, Koodo Mobility and others. Internet connectivity at the First Nation is as follows (Connected North, 2023):

- On 63A- 25.2% with no fixed broadband, 74.8% with less than 5/1 Mbps speed and 32.7% with LTE access.

- On 63B- 41.6% with less than 5/1 Mbps, 23.8% with 5/1 Mbps, 1.9% with 10/2 Mbps, 31.7% with 25/5 Mbps, 1% with 50/10 Mbps, and 72.7% with LTE access.

5.3.2.1.11 North Caribou Lake First Nation

Community Services information for North Caribou Lake First Nation. has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for North Caribou Lake First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the North Caribou Council to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. This recognizes that previously support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and family.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023b).

Early Childhood Development

Early Childhood Development program focuses on improving the health and social development of preschool children and their families in North Caribou Lake First Nation. It is designed to meet the emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs of the child. It offers programs that culturally connect and spiritually root children in the traditional language and history of family, community and Nation. This involves parents, Elders and community members as much as possible.

The program offers a variety of school readiness programs such as learning shapes and numbers, building vocabulary and reading. Additionally, there is supervised indoor and outdoor playtime and gym activities and nutritious snacks ae provided (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023a).

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for North Caribou Lake First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48-hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023c).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services. (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023)

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the North Caribou Lake First Nation community who require assistance to stay in their home. This program is available to members of North Caribou Lake First Nation between 30 to 60 years of age and requiring assistance at home due to illness or injury and individuals 60 years of age and over requiring assistance at home. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023d).

Falls Prevention and Community Elder Exercise Program

Falls prevention classes are provided for older adults and people with mobility issues or chronic conditions. This program aims to improve strength and balance to prevent injury and falls. These classes are taught by a physiotherapist or other regulated health care provider (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023e).

Diabetes Program

The Diabetes Program provides education, prevention, management and treatment services for North Caribou Lake First Nation community members living with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes. It provides case management and screening services, basic foot care services and referrals to other health care professionals. It works to reduce the number of avoidable complications that can arise from uncontrolled diabetes and helps patients develop and implement an approach to care and management of diabetes. It further assists individuals in finding appropriate services and referrals to other health care professionals (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023f).

Health Services

Nursing Station focuses on promoting physical and mental health for community members. It coordinates health care services through Nursing staff, two Community Health Representatives and visiting community Physician. It provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops especially in the areas of diabetes and alcohol/drug abuse by coordinating clinics/workshops in areas that may include diabetes, immunization, sexual health and communicable diseases. It also offers a palliative care program when required.

It takes care of individual health care needs though advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordination of one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse and home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. Further, it offers assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023g).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers access to specialized medical care through videoconferencing and tele-diagnostic equipment. It allows remote specialists to examine and prescribe treatments for patients in their home communities. With this service, patients can receive care without having to travel, reducing the need for transportation and potentially improving access to care (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023g).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in North Caribou Lake First Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to band services, social services, detoxification and treatment centres and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023h).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of North Caribou Lake First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023i).

Immunization Clinic

Immunization clinic provides inoculations or other measures to prevent North Caribou Lake First Nation community members from contracting specific controllable diseases (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023j).

Suboxone Treatment Program

The Suboxone Treatment Program provides a detoxification program for members of North Caribou Lake First Nation who are struggling with prescription drug abuse and addiction. Operating as a day program, the initiative offers suboxone as a substitute for methadone to minimize the effects of withdrawal. The program includes intake, withdrawal treatment, counselling, and aftercare services. Additionally, the program provides mental health and addiction counselling, as well as referrals to other treatment centres and programs as required (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023k).

Travel Clerk

Travel Clerk service is responsible for processing Non-Insured Health Service claims for community and Band members. This service submits medical appointment travel, mileage, meal and accommodation requests on behalf of individual. It also assists patients with making travel arrangements and maintains client documentation, receipts and related information (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023l).

Maternal Child Health Program

Maternal Child Health Program provides services and programs to enhance the lives of pregnant women and families with infants and young children in the community. It offers education and information on topics like FASD awareness, child nutrition issues, healthy cooking and shopping for families and prenatal nutrition (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023m).

Mental Health Program

Mental Health Program aims to promote good mental health and provide services for individuals with mental health and addictions issues in the North Caribou Lake First Nation community. It provides information, services and activities in areas such as addictions, depression, family violence, health promotion and stress management. It provides counselling services, cultural activities, feasts and ceremonies, group workshops, educational sessions that promote wellness and fitness activities. It also undertakes coordination and referrals to psychologist, psychiatrist, other counselling services and treatment centres and aftercare services (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023n).

Internet Connectivity

Keewaytinook Okimakanak has been provided with funding to facilitate high-speed internet access to 21 First Nations including North Caribou Lake; the allocated funding is $12,806,675 with an estimated target of 3,060 homes to be served (King's Printer for Ontario, 2022).

Internet connectivity at the First Nation is as follows (Connected North, 2023): 100% provided with 5/1 Mbps speed internet.

5.3.2.1.12 Wapekeka First Nation

Community Services information for Wapekeka First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Wapekeka First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Wapekeka Council to provide

child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. This recognizes that previously support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023a).

Crisis Intervention

Crisis intervention provides immediate assistance to individuals of Wapekeka First Nation affected by family violence and suicide. This program coordinates emergency response plans through the area Resource Team as part of Shibogama Council. Their services are available on-site or through a telephone call, and if necessary, they dispatch the police. The team confirms the safety of the victims and offers support and assistance. They can also arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions. Crisis intervention also coordinates a crisis plan for suicide and domestic violence intervention and any other form of crisis situations that may arise in the community. Additionally, they conduct information sessions and workshops on techniques for healing strategies. The support services offered include debriefing and stabilization following a crisis, advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies, meal preparation, transportation, homemaking, and other areas requiring support for families in crisis situations such as the suicide of a youth. Crisis Intervention provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023b).

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Wapekeka First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care, organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023c).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members (65 years of age and over) of the Wapekeka First Nation community who require assistance to stay in their home. Team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023d).

Nursing Station

Nursing Station is dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the Wapekeka First Nation community. It coordinates health care services through visiting community health nurses, visiting Physicians and Home Care workers. It provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops in areas that may include Child Care, Diabetes, Elders & Chronic Disease Immunization, Sexual Health and Communicable Diseases. Further, it coordinates services of a visiting dentist and provides a dental assistant.

They address individual health care needs by providing treatment of on-going health problems, emergency services, advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. They also provide assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023e).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Wapekeka Nation struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone

calls and home visits, and referrals to other services such as detoxification and medical assistance (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023f).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Wapekeka First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023g).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023e).

Home and Community Care – Physiotherapy Services

This program provides rehabilitative care to help people preserve or regain independence in-home or at nursing station depending on client. These services may include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and case management (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023h).

Community Mental Wellness Team

Shibogama First Nations Council Community Mental Wellness Team provides mental health supports and services in its communities including counselling, crisis support, clinical consultation, case management and workshops to support mental wellness. It aims to improve access to needed specialized services where gaps exist and coordinate training for community frontline workers (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023a).

Crisis Response Team

Shibogama First Nations Council Crisis Response Team promotes the safety of each community through the emergency response plans coordinated by the area resource teams. It facilitates intervention, counselling and support group services for community members who are experiencing some form of crisis. It offers service coordination service to mobilize local resources and support communities in the preparing of resources for the COVID-19 pandemic (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023b).

Youth Well-Being Team

It is a mental wellness program that provides support to Shibogama youth while they are away from their home communities attending Sioux North and Pelican Falls First Nation high school, as well as youth receiving specialized services/treatment while in Sioux Lookout. Some of the services offered include counselling, expressive arts therapy, land-based and cultural activities and referrals for specialized services. This program also offers a variety of youth activities at the "Shib Crib" on Front Street in Sioux Lookout as a comfortable and safe environment where youth can claim the space as their own to socialize with their friends, while participating in positive lifestyle programming (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023c).

Medical Transportation Program

Medical Transportation Program provides medical transportation services and assistance in making medical appointment arrangements to members of the Wapekeka First Nation community. It provides transportation within the community for individuals accessing the Nursing station or Health office while also providing assistance with completing prior approval applications for long distance medical appointments. It also offers assistance with arrangements for accommodation and travel details for individuals attending medical appointments out of community including Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre or Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023i).

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NHIB)

Services are provided by the community for processing Non-Insured Health Service claims for community and Band members. This program also submits medical appointment travel, mileage, meal and accommodation requests on behalf of individual. It assists with making travel arrangements and maintains client documentation, receipts and related information (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023j).

Internet Connectivity

Wapekeka First Nation is included within the 18 First Nations which will be provided with KNet upgrade to increase bandwidth on NWOBEI Fibre Loop. The multi-year project will update the KNet and Bell fibre optic broadband network and increase bandwidth. The program also includes community technician training, site assessments, equipment installation at point of presence, wireless access points, and other components (KuhKenah Network, 2023).

Wapekeka First Nation has internet access with 10% with no fixed broadband and 90% connected with 5/1 Mbps speed (Connected North, 2023).

5.3.2.1.13 Wawakapewin First Nation

Community Services information for Wawakapewin First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Wawakapewin First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Wawakapewin Council to provide child protection services to the families who reside in the Districts of Kenora and Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. Prior to Tikinagan, support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and family.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Wawakapewin First Nation, 2023a).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Nursing Station

The closest Nursing Station is located in Kasabonika Lake First Nation, 37 km northeast of Wawakapewin First Nation. It coordinates health care services through visiting community health nurses, visiting Physicians and Home Care workers. It provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops in areas that may include childcare, diabetes, elders and chronic disease, immunization, sexual health and communicable diseases.

They address individual health care needs by providing treatment of on-going health problems, emergency services, advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. They also provide assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, 2023).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas. It also provides opportunity for workshops and education sessions for staff and patients (211 Ontario North, Wawakapewin First Nation, 2023b).

Community Mental Wellness Team

The Shibogama First Nations Council Community Mental Wellness Team provides mental health supports and services in its communities including counselling, crisis support, clinical consultation, case management and workshops to support mental wellness. It aims to improve access to needed specialized services where gaps exist and coordinate training for community frontline workers (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023a).

Crisis Response Team

The Shibogama First Nations Council Crisis Response Team promotes the safety of each community through the emergency response plans coordinated by the area resource teams. It facilitates intervention, counselling and support group services for community members who are experiencing some form of crisis. It offers service coordination service to mobilize local resources and support communities in the preparing of resources for the COVID-19 pandemic (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023b).

Youth Well-Being Team

The Youth Well-Being Team provides mental wellness support to Shibogama youth while they are away from their home communities attending Sioux North and Pelican Falls First Nation high school, as well as youth receiving specialized services/treatment while in Sioux Lookout. Some of the services offered include counselling, expressive arts therapy, land-based and cultural activities and referrals for specialized services. This program also offers a variety of youth activities at the "Shib Crib" on Front Street in Sioux Lookout as a comfortable and safe environment where youth can claim the space as their own to socialize with their friends, while participating in positive lifestyle programming (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023c).

Internet Connectivity

Wawakapewin First Nation is included within the 18 First Nations which will be provided with KNet upgrade to increase bandwidth on NWOBEI Fibre Loop. The multi-year project will update the KNet and Bell fibre optic broadband network and increase bandwidth. The program also includes community technician training, site assessments, equipment installation at point of presence, wireless access points, and other components (KuhKenah Network, 2023).

Wawakapewin First Nation currently has internet access with less than 5/1 Mbps speed (Connected North, 2023).

5.3.2.1.14 Wunnumin First Nation

Community Services information for Wunnumin First Nation has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Wunnumin Lake First Nation. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 First Nations communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Wunnumin Council to provide

child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. This recognizes that previously support services for children and families were generally provided from outside First Nations communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

In February 2023, Tikinagan launched a new service, “Neegan Inabin” for young adults and youth aged 17 to 26 years old. Neegan Inabin means ‘looking forward’ in Oji-Cree and the services provides support to older youth and young adults starting out life. The service offers support via eight pillars – education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health and wellbeing, advocacy and transitions. Post-majority care support services funding is provided by the Indigenous Services Canada (Tikinagan Child and Family Services, 2023e).

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Family Well Being Program

The Family Well Being Program is a NAN initiative that aims to support each Indigenous community in designing and delivering their own comprehensive and culturally appropriate services and programs to promote community health and family well-being. The program focuses on empowering families to build healthy relationships and improving the overall health of communities. Its activities and programs include revitalizing Native languages, preventing and intervening in alcohol and drug abuse, organizing community events such as feasts, facilitating family circles, counselling and child/youth support groups, providing referrals to other programs and services, offering school programs, and conducting traditional land-based healing events. The program works towards eliminating family violence, reducing the number of youths involved in the justice system, and decreasing the number of children in care (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023a).

Crisis Prevention

Crisis Prevention provides immediate assistance to individuals of Wunnumin Lake First Nation affected by family violence and suicide. This program coordinates emergency response plans through the area Resource Team as part of Shibogama Council. Their services are available on-site or through a telephone call, and if necessary, they dispatch the police. The team confirms the safety of the victims and offers support and assistance. They can also arrange meetings with family members to discuss possible crisis resolutions. Crisis intervention also coordinates a crisis plan for suicide and domestic violence intervention and any other form of crisis situations that may arise in the community. Additionally, they conduct information sessions and workshops on techniques for healing strategies. The support services offered include debriefing and stabilization following a crisis, advocacy on behalf of individuals and families dealing with various agencies, meal preparation, transportation, homemaking, and other areas requiring support for families in crisis situations such as the suicide of a youth. Crisis intervention provides information and referrals to appropriate resources and services (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023b).

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program aims to support parenting and promote healthy child development for Wunnumin Lake First Nation families with children under six years old, as well as Indigenous children at risk. The program provides group information and educational sessions on topics related to healthy pregnancy, birth, and taking care of babies at home. It also offers a handbook on pregnancy and baby care (Baby's Best Chance), organizes prenatal classes, and operates a children's library to encourage child literacy. Program participants receive follow-up via telephone within 48 hours of discharge from the hospital and home visits pre- and post-birth to offer support to new mothers and prepare the family for the new arrival. The program also provides home visits during the child's early years to offer development guidance and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023c).

Day Care Centre

Wunnumin Lake First Nation operates a licensed daycare centre that provides a variety of activities to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of children in the community. It offers a variety of school readiness programs and two snacks and a hot lunch daily. It incorporates Native cultural programs with the daily community-based programming. It offers full day and part-time programs for toddlers (18 to 30 months of age) and preschoolers (30 months to 5 years of age) (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023d).

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program

The FASD Program provides education and information on the harmful consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The program offers individual and group counselling sessions, parenting classes, and information sessions for teens. It advises on various conditions such as Alcohol Related Birth Defects, Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Effects, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The program is available to members of Wunnumin Lake First Nation and families of children who have been diagnosed with or are suspected of having FASD (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023e).

Elder Care

Indigenous Services Canada, through the FNIHCC program, provides funding and guidance for Elder care. This program aims to establish home and community care services for Indigenous individuals residing in First Nations and Inuit communities (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023). It encompasses First Nations individuals living on reserves who have been assessed as requiring one or more services.

The FNIHCC program prioritizes various services, including client needs assessment, case management, and care coordination. It also covers in-home respite care, temporary care, nursing care planning, and personal care management. Health centres like the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority play a crucial role in delivering in-community healthcare services (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023).

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members of the Wunnumin Lake First Nation community who require assistance to stay in their home. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023f).

Diabetes Program

The Diabetes Program provides education, prevention, management and treatment services for Wunnumin Lake First Nation individuals living with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes. It provides case management and screening services, basic foot care services and referrals to other health care professionals. It works to reduce the number of

avoidable complications that can arise from uncontrolled diabetes and helps patients develop and implement an approach to care and management of diabetes. It further assists individuals in finding appropriate services (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023g).

Nursing Station

Nursing Station is dedicated to promoting the physical and mental well-being of the Wunnumin First Nation community. It coordinates health care services through Community Health Nurses, visiting Physicians and Home Care workers. It provides health awareness and counselling, education and prevention workshops in areas that may include Child Care, Diabetes, Elders & Chronic Disease Immunization, Sexual Health and Communicable Diseases. Further, it coordinates services of a visiting dentist.

They address individual health care needs by providing treatment of on-going health problems, emergency services, advocacy on behalf of individual with other health professionals, coordinating one-on-one pre-natal care with the community health nurse, home visits to the sick, Elders, new mothers and persons with health care needs. They also provide assistance with coordinating local and long-distance travel arrangements for medical appointments (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023h).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023h).

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program aims to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Wunnumin Lake First Nation who are struggling with addiction issues. This program offers AA and NA meetings and provides transportation to all meetings and workshops upon request. To prevent addiction, the program also holds public seminars and meetings, educational sessions in schools, and coordinates cultural and spiritual events. The intervention program facilitates recreational activities, provides individual and group discussions, and offers cultural and spiritual gatherings. Aftercare is also provided through counseling, sharing circles, and support groups, as well as regular phone calls and home visits, and referrals to band services, social services, detoxification and treatment centres and medical assistance (Northwest Health Line, 2023b).

Extended Health Benefits

The Extended Health Benefits program provides a range of health benefits to individuals and families who experience high health costs. Eligibility for the program is determined based on need and is open to members of Wunnumin Lake First Nation aged 16 to 65 years. Benefits provided may include basic dental care, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, surgical supplies and dressings, as well as transportation for medical appointments. To be eligible, individuals and families must have been eligible for Ontario Works in the previous months or received a payment for loss of income under the 1986-1990 Hepatitis C Settlement Agreement and are no longer eligible for Ontario Works (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023i).

Home and Community Care – Physiotherapy Services

This program provides rehabilitative care to help people preserve or regain independence in-home or at nursing station depending on client. These services may include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and case management (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023j).

Community Mental Wellness Team

Shibogama First Nations Council Community Mental Wellness Team provides mental health supports and services in its communities including counselling, crisis support, clinical consultation, case management and workshops to support mental wellness. It aims to improve access to needed specialized services where gaps exist and coordinate training for community frontline workers (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023a).

Crisis Response Team

Shibogama First Nations Council Crisis Response Team promotes the safety of each community through the emergency response plans coordinated by the area resource teams. It facilitates intervention, counselling and support group services for community members who are experiencing some form of crisis. It offers service coordination service to mobilize local resources and support communities in the preparing of resources for the COVID-19 pandemic (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023b).

Youth Well-Being Team

It is a mental wellness program that provides support to Shibogama youth while they are away from their home communities attending Sioux North and Pelican Falls First Nation high school, as well as youth receiving specialized services/treatment while in Sioux Lookout. Some of the services offered include counselling, expressive arts therapy, land-based and cultural activities and referrals for specialized services. This program also offers a variety of youth activities at the "Shib Crib" on Front Street in Sioux Lookout as a comfortable and safe environment where youth can claim the space as their own to socialize with their friends, while participating in positive lifestyle programming (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023c).

Cultural Services

The community has two churches. One of them is Anglican and the other one is a Pentecostal Assembly (Wunnumin Lake First Nation, 2010).

Internet Connectivity

In 2022, Phase II of the Rapid Lynx broadband project was planned, and this will include an additional 289 kilometers (180 miles) of fiber and optical equipment and will also connect Nibinamik First Nation to Wunnumin Lake First Nation to allow for a second connection to the internet for redundancy and path diversity, increasing network reliability and resiliency along the Rapid Lynx route (Matawa First Nations, 2022).

Wunnumin First Nation is included within the 18 First Nations which will be provided with KNet upgrade to increase bandwidth on NWOBEI Fibre Loop. The multi-year project will update the KNet and Bell fibre optic broadband network and increase bandwidth. The program also includes community technician training, site assessments, equipment installation at point of presence, wireless access points, and other components (KuhKenah Network, 2023).

Currently Wunnumin First Nation has an internet speed of 5/1 Mbps (Connected North, 2023).

5.3.2.2 Municipalities, Cities and Towns

5.3.2.2.1 Thunder Bay

Community Services information for the Municipality of Thunder Bay has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

The Municipality of Thunder Bay has several family services available, including Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek Child and Family Services, Dilco Anishinabek Family Care, Thunder Bay Counselling, and the Early ON Child and Family Care (211 Ontario North, Thunder Bay, 2023a).

The Lakehead Social Planning Council in Thunder Bay operates 211 Ontario North to provide free, confidential, multilingual access to information and referrals to the full range of community, social, health and government services (City of Thunder Bay, 2023a). The Lakehead Social Planning Council also has a Community Information Referral Centre, which provides in-person information and services in the City of Thunder Bay.

Children's Aid Society (CAS)

The CAS are non-profit agencies working with local communities to provide childcare services to protect children from harm (Children's Aid Society, 2023). CAS offers both child and family services. Child service workers work together with families, community partners and caregivers to verify that the needs of the child are met. Children in the care of CAS receive a written plan that is developed by the child, caregiver, and biological family (if possible) to include access or contact with the child's family and/or Band. Youths 16 to 17 years old who need protection can apply for a voluntary agreement with CAS that does not require them to be in the care of CAS. Youths 18 years old who exit the care can enter into a voluntary agreement with a service worker such that the youth continue receiving support through their transition to adulthood at age 21.

Elder Care

The City of Thunder Bay offers services for older adults including the Older Adult Unit's Support Services Program (City of Thunder Bay, 2023a). This program offers services to seniors that reside in their own homes/apartments and helps them maintain an independent lifestyle by reducing isolation and loneliness through the support of friendship and socializing. The services are located within the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre, and the program is funded by the City of Thunder Bay and the Ministry of Health. Seniors that enter the program are assessed by support service staff and matched with a trained volunteer who shares similar interests. Volunteers provide the seniors with support and friendship either through in-person visits or over the telephone. Other services provided by the Older Adult Unit's Support Service Program include the walk-a-bit program and the health and wellness program.

Pioneer Ridge

Pioneer Ridge is a long-term care and senior service facility operated by the Municipality of the City of Thunder Bay with support from the MOHLTC (City of Thunder Bay, 2023a). The facility provides each resident with quality nursing care, life enrichment programs, balanced nutritional diets, and social and spiritual opportunities. The facility has 150 long-term care beds and has been accredited by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. Services provided by Pioneer Ridge include meals on wheels, nursing services, and nutrition and food services.

Thunder Bay District Health Unit

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit is a public health agency incorporated under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990 and governed by the Board of Health for the District of Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay District Health Unit, 2023). The main office is located in the City of Thunder Bay and operates throughout the District including Red Rock, Terrace Bay, Geraldton, Marathon and Manitouwadge. The Thunder Bay District Health Unit provides public health program and services to approximately 146,000 individuals. These services include children's oral and visual health; environmental health; family health; healthy babies healthy children; healthy living, injury prevention and drug & alcohol misuse; healthy schools; infection diseases prevention and control; immunization; nutrition services; septic and land developments; sexual health; street outreach nursing; tobacco control; and workplace health promotion. Public health programs are provided for all age groups and delivered through a variety of settings (e.g., workplace, daycare, school, homes, etc.).

There are also several health services for Indigenous groups in the Municipality of Thunder Bay including Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, VQRP+, Pays Plat First Nation Building Healthy Communities, Indigenous Peoples Advocacy Coalition, and Services for Members of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (211 Ontario North, Thunder Bay, 2023b-f).

Services through Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)

There are several services offered for the residents of Thunder Bay through ONWA, described briefly below. The ONWA is a non-profit organization in support of Indigenous women and families within Province of Ontario, providing support services including ending violence against Indigenous women, equal access to justice, education, health services, environmental stewardship, and economic development (Ontario Native Women's Association, N.D.c). The services offered include:

- Babaamendam (Trauma-Informed Care): Provides safe spaces for Indigenous women wishing to exit oppressive and violent situations.
- Breaking free from family violence: Provides services to families at risk or involved with child welfare, family violence and provides support to women to navigate through child welfare systems. Sioux Lookout members can obtain this service through the Sunset Women's Aboriginal Circle.
- Centralized Intake: Provides a single point of contact for accessing immediate support and services across the Province.
- Community Health Outreach: Promotes health, healthy lifestyles, education about health care, illness prevention, escaping family violence, and also provides access to cultural programming and ceremony, individual and group sessions and increased community connections for improving better health.
- Community Wellness: Provides support through strength-based, culturally- grounded programming, and works one-on-one with Indigenous families to support Indigenous women's leadership.
- Ending violence against indigenous women: Provides education, training and tools for empowering and supporting women who are survivors of sexual assault and abuse and promoting healing.
- Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking: Supports communities to provide survivor-focused and localized support and responses to end human trafficking.
- Indigenous Diabetes Education: Educates communities and provides support regarding risks of diabetes and management of the disease.
- Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children: Provides assistance to Indigenous families for providing healthy development of children, and includes family home visits, services coordination and referrals.
- Indigenous Responsible Gambling Awareness: Provides awareness, education, prevention, and resource development on responsible gambling.
- Indigenous Victim and Family Liaison: Provides culturally relevant services, guidance, support, and advocacy for Indigenous women who have gone through violence and families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls,
- Indigenous Women's Leadership: Provides support for Indigenous women to develop their capacity as leaders in current roles as leaders of organizations and communities.
- Land-Based Healing Camps: Provides land-based services for accomplishing physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being through a culturally trauma-informed approach.
- Mindimooyenh Health Clinic: A community member driven vaccination and healthcare centre.
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Family Support: Provides support to families and friends of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women with reconciliation and healing.
- Nihdawin: Provides support for Indigenous members who are at risk of and/or are experiencing homelessness.
- She is Wise: Focuses on building leadership and capacity based off on Indigenous knowledge, ways of knowing and being. There is a published magazine available online and in print.
- Ska-Be (Helper): Provides support to improve the health and wellbeing of urban Indigenous elderly women and/or those with chronic illness or disabilities.

- Youth Cultural Intervention Program: Provides support to female youth involved with, transitioning out, or at risk of involvement in the justice systems, police involvement, probation, and parole systems.
- Youth in Transition: Provides housing support to youth aged 16 to 17 who are in a Voluntary Youth Services Agreement.
- Youth Life Promotion (Mentorship): Provides support to Indigenous youth about suicide prevention, mental health and wellness support, clinical and land-based programming.

Cultural Services

The City of Thunder Bay offers a Community, Youth & Cultural Funding Program every year to non-profit organizations in the social service, youth, and cultural sectors in the community (City of Thunder Bay, 2023b). The city's Cultural Development, Community Programming & Events oversees and implements the Inspire Thunder Bay Culture Plan, which focuses on future cultural development.

The Thunder Bay Multicultural Association seeks to promote multiculturalism in Thunder Bay through community engagement and development and positive equality framework (Thunder Bay Multicultural Association, 2023). Programs and services provided include newcomer services (e.g., language assessment); translation and interpretation services, community connections program, youth program, and local immigration partnership.

Recreational Services

The City of Thunder Bay's Recreation and Culture Division offers recreational programs for all age groups (City of Thunder Bay, 2023c). For children five to 12 years old, several camps are available including Adventurers Camp and Chippewa Summer Camps. For youths 12 to 18 years old, services include Youth Move, Youth Inclusion Program, and Youth Fitness Program. Adults have access to several fitness programs offered by the Canada Games Complex, inclusion services for adults with disabilities, and community wellness programs. Adults 55 years or older have access to the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre which offers daily drop-in activities and registered activities, and West Arthur Older Adult Programs such as knitting and painting.

Communications Services

The City of Thunder Bay offers a variety of communication services for individuals. Canadian Hearing Services in the City of Thunder Bay offers communication devices for purchase and provides services for hearing impaired individuals (211 Ontario North, Thunder Bay, 2023g). Fort William First Nation Communication Strategy develops and implements effective communication programs and policies between programs, services, departments, and community members (211 Ontario North, Thunder Bay, 2023h). Services provided by Fort William First Nation Communication Strategy include providing opportunities for youth studying communications to work in the field and providing better avenues for communication between administration and members. The George Jeffrey Children's Centre provides augmentative and alternative communication services which provides communication assessment and equipment to individuals with difficulty with verbal and/or written language (211 Ontario North, Thunder Bay, 2023i). Speech and language services are also available for children and adults in the City of Thunder Bay.

5.3.2.2.2 Sioux Lookout

Community Services information for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a culturally specific child and family services organization that provides services to 30 First Nations communities across one-third of Ontario. The organization's Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin service model emphasizes Native approaches to child welfare and incorporates the wisdom, guidance, and teachings of Elders in all aspects of service delivery. As of January 2020, Tikinagan has been designated by the Ministry to provide child protection services

to families residing in the Thunder Bay district. The organization's goal is to keep children in their own communities, even when they cannot be with their parents, by placing them in foster homes nearby through Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Care Agreements, without court involvement. Customary care is also an essential part of Tikinagan's approach, with the First Nation Chief and Council having the authority to declare children to be placed in Tikinagan care when removal from their home is necessary. The organization works with First Nations to develop service plans for families and placement options and care plans for children in care, which are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a).

Firefly

Firefly is a multi-service, non-profit organization that provides child and family services across northern Ontario (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023a). Firefly has two programs: Children's Case Manager Program and Adult Community Case Manager Program. The Children's Case Manager Program provides information and referrals to specialized services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, counselling, psychology, telepsychiatry, child development and community integration. The program also provides case management to confirm that children and youth are provided with proper services. The Adult Community Case Manager Program provides support to adults with developmental disabilities who also live independently so that they are able to live safely and securely in the community. The program also offers advocacy to develop greater independence and inclusion in the community. Adult case management confirms that individuals receive the proper services required.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program provides parenting support programming and promotes healthy child development. The program is available for children under six years old. The following supports are provided as part of this program (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023b).

- Provides group information and educational sessions on topics about healthy pregnancy, birth and taking care of baby at home;
- Provides information on the stages of pregnancy; and
- Offers parents handbook of pregnancy and baby care (Baby's Best Chance).

Program participants are provided with telephone follow up 48 hours after discharge from hospital, home visits pre-birth and post-birth to provide support for new mothers as well as support for early years child development, and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023b).

Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development program is designed to enhance the health and social development of preschool children under the age of six and their families. Its primary objective is to meet the child's emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological requirements. The program aims to culturally connect children and instill traditional values and history related to their families, community, and Nation. The involvement of parents, Elders, and community members is highly encouraged. The program provides various school readiness programs, including learning shapes and numbers, building vocabulary and reading, and supervised indoor and outdoor playtime and gym activities. Additionally, nutritious snacks are offered to the children (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023c).

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout entered into a transfer agreement with the Kenora District Service Board in 2021 where the Kenora District Service Board would be responsible for two municipally operated Childcare centres (Sioux Lookout, 2022a). However, the Kenora District Service Board announced that they would withdraw from the transfer agreement in 2022, due to a conflict in agreement on which union would represent childcare workers. The Municipality ceased to offer childcare services and closed the Biidaaban and Sioux Mountain Children's Centres on March 31, 2022.

Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre

- The Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre is a non-profit corporation located in Sioux Lookout that provides a meeting place for socializing (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023d). The centre provides the community with a variety of services and programs, as well as information on other services and programs in Sioux Lookout.
- Childcare and youth programs include the Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living – Kids Program, Wasa-Nabin: Urban Aboriginal Youth Program, Akwe: Urban Aboriginal Children's Program, and Aboriginal Best Start Hub. The Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living kids program educates children on health topics including diet and fitness and provides cultural activities to enhance well-being and traditional knowledge of urban Aboriginal children, youth and families.
- The Wasa-Nabin: Urban Aboriginal Youth Program is a self-development program that teaches youths 13 to 18 years old the skills to succeed such as goal setting, leadership skills development, and how to make healthy choices, using cultural activities to strengthen their cultural identity.
- The Akwe: Urban Aboriginal Children's Program focuses on enhancing skills, knowledge, attitudes, and values by providing old traditional cultural teachings and values to youths 7 to 12 years old through client-based programming and individualized one-on-one supports.
- The Aboriginal Best Start Hub is a family support program that promotes healthy living for developing children (0 to 6 years old) by providing culturally appropriate support to families, positive parenting, promoting and building life skills and providing access to information, and resources and referrals to additional support services.

Home and Community Care

Home and Community Care offers healthcare services for ill, injured, or Elders members living in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout in the comfort of their own homes. This service is provided by a Case Manager/Nurse, Personal Support Workers, and Homemakers. The team assesses the health history of individuals and develops a personalized care plan, which is continuously monitored through case management to secure its effectiveness. The services offered include home care nursing, personal care assistance with tasks such as dressing and bathing, basic or advanced practice foot care, teaching individuals to care for themselves, home support with light housekeeping, laundry, and meal preparation, respite for family members and caregivers, and help with light outdoor/yard work (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023e).

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout offers two community centres, which provides services to seniors: the Sioux Area Seniors Activity Centre and Lost Lake Drop-In Centre (Sioux Lookout, 2022b). The Sioux Area Seniors Activity Centre offers various recreational activities and education programs for seniors including exercise classes and arts and crafts. Lost Lake Drop-In Centre serves as a community hub to provide service for seniors including weekly luncheons and monthly church potlucks.

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

The Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority provides services and programs to 33 First Nation communities in the Sioux Lookout region (Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, 2023). Services include physician services/ northern clinics, Nodin mental health services, developmental services for children and youth, community health workers diabetes program, cancer screening, and the Anishininiiw Nanandowi'kikendamowin program.

The Anishininiiw Nanandowi'kikendamowin program supports research and special projects relevant, meaningful, and beneficial to First Nations in the Sioux Lookout area. This includes health projects involving diabetes, mental health, cancer screening, and others.

Payahtakenemowin Wellness Program

Shibogama First Nations Council is located in Sioux Lookout and provides services to Shibogama First Nations Council members which includes Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakapewin First Nation, and Wunnumin Lake First Nation (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023f). In 2019 and

2020, the communities collectively created the Payahtakenemowin Wellness Program for Shibogama First Nations. The program has three components: community wellness, crisis response, and youth well-being. The community wellness team provides mental health support and services such as counselling, crisis support, clinical consultation, case management and workshops to support mental wellness. The team also makes an effort to improve access to specialized services. The crisis response team promotes safety through emergency response plans and facilitates intervention, counselling and support group services for community members experiencing some form of crisis. The youth well-being team provides counselling, expressive arts therapy, land-based and cultural activities and referrals for specialized services. The mental wellness program delivered by the youth well-being team supports youth that are away from their home communities attending Sioux North and Pelican Falls First Nation high school, as well as youth receiving specialized services in Sioux Lookout.

Sunset Women's Aboriginal Circle

Sunset Women's Aboriginal Circle offers a health outreach program which provides education, programs and workshops that promote healthy lifestyles (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023g). The program also aims to improve working relationships between the health care system and Indigenous communities. Educating Indigenous individuals is an integral component of the program as it provides education to raise awareness of health issues impacting Indigenous communities and confirms that Indigenous individuals understand the health care system. The program also provides education on violence within the community as an effort to reduce it. This is done through the Health and Social Circle, which offers health related presentations and workshops that teach Indigenous arts and crafts. The Healthy Lifestyle component of the program hosts weekly group meetings to discuss health issues, focusing on diet and exercise, and provide ways of managing health and disease prevention.

Services through Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)

There are several services offered for members of Municipality of Sioux Lookout through ONWA, described briefly below. The ONWA is a non-profit organization in support of Indigenous women and families within Province of Ontario, providing support services including ending violence against Indigenous women, equal access to justice, education, health services, environmental stewardship, and economic development (Ontario Native Women's Association, N.D.b). Service overview:

- Breaking free from family violence: Provides services to families at risk or involved with child welfare, family violence and provides support to women to navigate through child welfare systems. Sioux Lookout members can obtain this service through the Sunset Women's Aboriginal Circle.
- Centralized Intake: Provides a single point of contact for accessing immediate support and services across the Province.
- Community Health Outreach: Promotes health, healthy lifestyles, education about health care, illness prevention, escaping family violence, and also provides access to cultural programming and ceremony, individual and group sessions and increased community connections for improving better health.
- Ending violence against indigenous women: Provides education, training and tools for empowering and supporting women who are survivors of sexual assault and abuse and promoting healing.
- Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking: Supports communities to provide survivor-focused and localized support and responses to end human trafficking.
- Indigenous Diabetes Education: Educates communities and provides support regarding risks of diabetes and management of the disease.
- Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children: Provides assistance to Indigenous families for providing healthy development of children, and includes family home visits, services coordination and referrals.
- Indigenous Responsible Gambling Awareness: Provides awareness, education, prevention, and resource development on responsible gambling.

- Indigenous Women's Leadership: Provides support for Indigenous women to develop their capacity as leaders in current roles as leaders of organizations and communities.
- Mental Health and Wellness: Provides support and advocacy to Indigenous women and families via a trauma-informed and traditional support framework.
- Mindimooyenh Health Clinic: A community member driven vaccination and healthcare centre.
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Family Support: Provides support to families and friends of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women with reconciliation and healing.
- She is Wise: Focuses on building leadership and capacity based off on Indigenous knowledge, ways of knowing and being. There is a published magazine available online and in print.
- Youth in Transition: Provides housing support to youth aged 16 to 17 who are in a Voluntary Youth Services Agreement.
- Youth Life Promotion (Mentorship): Provides support to Indigenous youth about suicide prevention, mental health and wellness support, clinical and land-based programming.

Cultural Services

Sioux Lookout's Multicultural Youth Centre offers a Multicultural Youth Citizenship Project, which provides youth with the opportunity to explore the cultural history of Sioux Lookout, sporting events, music production and workshops (NorthWest Healthline, Sioux Lookout, 2023).

Recreational Services

The Sioux Lookout Recreation and Culture Department offers several recreational services to residents of Sioux Lookout (Sioux Lookout, 2022c). Sioux Lookout has several recreational areas including the Sioux Lookout Memorial Arena, Bocce Courts, Cedar Bay Recreation Complex, Sioux Lookout Fitness Centre, baseball diamonds, and skate parks. The Recreation and Culture Department also provides child/youth recreational programs including Cedar Bay Summer Camp, gymnastics, minor hockey, minor baseball, minor soccer, and figure skating club.

Positive Recreation Opportunities for Kids is a program in Sioux Lookout that provides children and youth with the opportunity to engage in recreation and cultural activities (Sioux Lookout, 2022d). The program is available for children and youth (ages zero to 18) and provides financial assistance for families unable to participate in the registered recreational activities.

Communications Services

The Wawatay Native Communication Society provides communication technology and services to First Nations people in Sioux Lookout (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023h). In addition to providing news through radio and printed media, Wawatay Native Communication Society also provides translation services to translate Ojibway, Cree and Oji-Cree to English.

5.3.2.2.3 Timmins

Community Services information for the Municipality of Timmins has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services

Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services is a non-profit organization funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, in the City of Timmins, mandated to provide child welfare services to 11 First Nation communities by the Chiefs of these 11 First Nation and the Province of Ontario under the *Child, Youth and Family Services* Act (211 Ontario North, Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services, 2023). Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services provides a variety of

services including advocacy (providing information and education to Bands/Communities on their Rights and Responsibilities under service acts); providing consultation and support to local Bands/Communities concerning band representative roles and responsibilities; counselling and referral services for children, youths and adults; customary/foster care to children by recruiting and retaining Aboriginal Foster caregivers and homes; and providing family support and prevention services to all First Nations members regardless of residency.

Access Better Living

Access Better Living is a non-profit organization that operates at the Access Better Living Centre in South Porcupine, in the City of Timmins, and provides service and programs for individuals of all ages with disabilities (211 Ontario North, Access Better Living, 2023). Services and programs include supportive housing program, attendant outreach program, assisted living program, home help/maintenance program, respite care program, and the summit programs.

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre

The Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre provides a family service for individuals with intellectual disabilities across the Districts of Cochrane and Temiskaming (211 Ontario North, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre, 2023). The centre provides alternative living arrangements for children and adults with intellectual disabilities by matching the individual to a family for support. The programs provided by the centre are designed to meet the physical, behavioural, social, and medical needs of the individual. Services and programs include residential homes, the day program, infant and child development program, LifeShare Program (a program where Ontario families and citizens provide safe living spaces for individuals with intellectual disabilities), psychological services, community support services, and speech and language services.

East End Family Health Team

The East End Family Health Team is a clinic located in the City of Timmins that consists of several diverse health care professionals including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and dieticians (211 Ontario North, East End Family Health Team, 2023). The clinic offers primary health care services including but not limited to chronic disease education and prevention, disease management, health promotion, palliative care, and rehabilitation. Advisory health care services can also be accessed remotely by residents through telephone communication services to registered nurses and family doctors.

Métis Family Well-being Program

The Timmins Métis Council offers a Métis Family Well-being Program, which operates under the Métis Nation of Ontario's Healing and Wellness Branch to support Métis families (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023a). The program focuses on providing one-on-one direct communication to support families. Services and programs include, but are not limited to providing safe places and homework clubs; assistance in navigating the community support system, assistance in developing life skills and self-identity for children and youth; legal support; empowering parents to be their children's best advocates; ensuring basic family needs are met; guiding families towards building healthy relationships and raising awareness of personal safety issues; peer support for youths involved in justice and correction issues; referrals to employment and training programs; and support victims of violence. Although the program is primarily designed for Métis individuals and families, it is also open for individuals and families who do not have Métis Nation of Ontario citizenship or are not of Métis descent.

Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development program is designed to enhance school readiness for preschool children who are families across the Cochrane District (including those living in the Municipality of Timmins) and six years of age and younger. The program offers a variety of school readiness programs, such as learning shapes and numbers, building vocabulary, and reading, to address the emotional, physical, cognitive, and spiritual development of children. The program also aims to culturally connect and spiritually root children in the traditional language and history of their family, community, and Nation. The program provides supervised indoor and outdoor playtime and gym activities, as well as

afternoon snacks to verify that the children's needs are met (Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board, 2022).

Bright Spot Therapy Services

Bright Sport Therapy Services provides in-home occupational therapy services for children through assessment, intervention, and consultation (211 Ontario North, Bright Spot Therapy Services, 2023). Services offered includes speech and language pathology for children and adults, feeding therapy, reading therapy, occupational therapy for children and adults, autism assessment, and psychoeducational assessment.

Elder Care

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario offers an Elder Abuse Awareness Program for residents in the District of Cochrane (including those living in the Municipality of Timmins), which provides education on Elder abuse to raise awareness on the issue and provide information on Elder abuse prevention strategies (211 Ontario North, Cochrane District Elder Abuse Awareness Program, 2023).

Porcupine Health Unit

Porcupine Health Unit is a public health unit that provides health services for residents living in the Cochrane District (Porcupine Health Unit, 2023). The health unit has over 120 staff and include dental hygienists, dietitians, inspectors, public health nurses, health promoters and outreach workers. Health services offered include dental and vision services, immunization clinics, harm reduction services, and sexual health clinics.

Timmins Family Health Team

The Timmins Family Health Team consists of a team of doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and other health care professionals who work collaboratively to provide primary health care to families and communities (Timmins Academic Family Health Team, 2023). The team also collaborates with health care professionals outside the Family Health Team to provide more services to the community. Primary health services include but are not limited to chronic disease education and prevention, disease management, health promotion, palliative care, and rehabilitation. Advisory health care services can also be accessed remotely by residents through telephone communication services to registered nurses and family doctors.

Okakeskimiwew Indigenous Counselling and Psychotherapy

The Okakeskimiwew Indigenous Counselling and Psychotherapy provides Indigenous mental health counselling and psychotherapy to Indigenous individuals (Okakeskimiwew Indigenous Counselling and Psychotherapy, N.D). Services provided include individual one-on-one counselling, couples therapy, group therapy, and advocacy and referrals to other services.

Bayshore Home Care

Bayshore Home Care is an organization that works with health authorities, hospitals, and healthcare system planners to provide primary health care for patients and families (Bayshore HealthCare, 2023). Bayshore Health Care provides primary health care services for the following medical conditions: cancer, dementia, diabetes, heart disease, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and stroke. Personal care services are also provided, which include bathing and dressing, companionship and respite care, fall and risk assessment, footcare, light housekeeping and meal preparation, medication reminders, and nursing.

Mushkegowuk Council

The Mushkegowuk Council delivers health initiatives and services for First Nations members within the Mushkegowuk Territory to meet the needs of health programs offered in these communities (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023d). The regional health services address health care provided through clinics, health centres, nursing stations and health

programs, advocates for Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care, promotes mental health and offers mental health management strategies, combat illegal drug trade within the community, and coordinates regional crisis interventions.

Services through Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)

There are several services offered for members of Municipality of Timmins through ONWA, described briefly below. The ONWA is a non-profit organization in support of Indigenous women and families within Province of Ontario, providing support services including ending violence against Indigenous women, equal access to justice, education, health services, environmental stewardship, and economic development (Ontario Native Women's Association, n.d). Service overview:

- Babaamendam (Trauma-Informed Care): Provides safe spaces for Indigenous women wishing to exit oppressive and violent situations.
- Breaking free from family violence: Provides services to families at risk or involved with child welfare, family violence and provides support to women to navigate through child welfare systems. Sioux Lookout members can obtain this service through the Sunset Women's Aboriginal Circle.
- Centralized Intake: Provides a single point of contact for accessing immediate support and services across the Province.
- Community Health Outreach: Promotes health, healthy lifestyles, education about health care, illness prevention, escaping family violence, and also provides access to cultural programming and ceremony, individual and group sessions and increased community connections for improving better health.
- Ending violence against indigenous women: Provides education, training and tools for empowering and supporting women who are survivors of sexual assault and abuse and promoting healing.
- Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking: Supports communities to provide survivor-focused and localized support and responses to end human trafficking.
- Indigenous Diabetes Education: Educates communities and provides support regarding risks of diabetes and management of the disease.
- Indigenous Responsible Gambling Awareness: Provides awareness, education, prevention, and resource development on responsible gambling.
- Indigenous Women's Leadership: Provides support for Indigenous women to develop their capacity as leaders in current roles as leaders of organizations and communities.
- Mental Health and Wellness: Provides support and advocacy services to Indigenous women and their families through a trauma-informed and traditional support framework.
- Mindimooyenh Health Clinic: A community member driven vaccination and healthcare centre.
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Family Support: Provides support to families and friends of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women with reconciliation and healing.
- She is Wise: Focuses on building leadership and capacity based off on Indigenous knowledge, ways of knowing and being. There is a published magazine available online and in print.
- Youth Life Promotion (Mentorship): Provides support to Indigenous youth about suicide prevention, mental health and wellness support, clinical and land-based programming.

Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the identity of Aboriginal people in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory, develop positive images for Aboriginal Peoples in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities, raise awareness on the importance of Aboriginal culture, and develop a better understanding and appreciation of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation heritage (Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre, 2023). The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre provides a language program, which seeks to preserve and reinforce the use of the

Aboriginal languages spoken within the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Upon request, the centre can translate both written and oral communication (e.g., articles, interpretation services in courts, meetings, reports, etc.) for government agencies, Native organizations, and public and private sectors. The centre also provides assistance to Nishnawbe Aski Nation schools in the planning and development of school programs and promote cross-cultural awareness in mainstream education programs through workshops, presentations, and conferences.

Timmins and District Multicultural Centre

The Timmins and District Multicultural Centre offers general settlement and translation services for immigrants and refugees (Timmins & District Multicultural Centre, 2019). Settlement services for newcomers to Canada include providing a needs assessment and referrals, information and orientation covering topics related to living in Canada (e.g., Permanent Resident applications and renewals), and help develop community connections for provide newcomers with safe inclusive spaces for connecting with other members of the community. Translation services include offering interpretation services to those who are struggling with English or French and translate documents.

Recreational Services

The Timmins Senior Citizens Recreation Centre offers a variety of recreational programs and activities to seniors in the City of Timmins (Timmins Senior Recreation Centre, N.D.). Programs and activities include games (billiards, cards, darts, floor shuffleboard, bowling), fitness (chair yoga, exercise), and dancing.

5.3.2.2.4 Greenstone

Community Services information for the Municipality of Greenstone has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Métis Family Well-being Program

The Greenstone Métis Council offers a Métis Family Well-being Program, which operates under the Métis Nation of Ontario's Healing and Wellness Branch to support Métis families (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023a), The program focuses on providing one-on-one direct communication to support families. Services and programs include, but are not limited to providing safe places and homework clubs; assistance in navigating the community support system, assistance in developing life skills and self-identity for children and youth; legal support; empowering parents to be their children's best advocates; ensuring basic family needs are met; guiding families towards building healthy relationships and raising awareness of personal safety issues; peer support for youths involved in justice and correction issues; referrals to employment and training programs; and support victims of violence. Although the program is primarily designed for Métis individuals and families, it is also open for individuals and families who do not have Métis Nation of Ontario citizenship or are not of Métis descent.

Greenstone Family Health Team

The Greenstone Family Health Team is a medical care team that focuses on providing primary health care to families and communities in the Municipality of Greenstone (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023b). Programs and services are offered for chronic disease management, chronic pain management, diabetes management, hypertension management, weight management, respiratory health management, smoking cessation, cancer screening, pre-chemo care, immunizations, annual medicals, sexual health/pregnancy testing, prenatal/postnatal care, well baby visits, wound care, foot care, respirology, and spirometry. The health team also provides mental health care services for people suffering from mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety.

North of Superior Counselling Programs

North of Superior Counselling Programs is a non-profit, accredited community-based mental health and addictions agency that supports communities in the North of Superior District (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023c). Counselling

services are provided to children, youths and their families and include the following: helping families manage children's mental health issues; provide developmental assessment and support; and offer counselling, management, and advocacy to those experiencing or are at risk for social, emotional, behavioral, and/or academic difficulties.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program provides parenting support programming and promotes healthy child development. The program is available for children under six years old in the Municipality of Greenstone. The following supports are provided as part of this program (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023d):

- Provides group information and educational sessions on topics about healthy pregnancy, birth and taking care of baby at home;
- Provides information on the stages of pregnancy; and
- Offers parents handbook of pregnancy and baby care (Baby's Best Chance).

Program participants are provided with telephone follow up 48 hours after discharge from hospital, home visits pre-birth and post-birth to provide support for new mothers as well as support for early years child development, and referrals to other programs and services (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023d).

Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development program is designed to enhance the health and social development of preschool children under the age of six and their families. Its primary objective is to meet the child's emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological requirements. The program aims to culturally connect children and instill traditional values and history related to their families, community, and Nation. The involvement of parents, Elders, and community members is highly encouraged. The program provides various school readiness programs, including learning shapes and numbers, building vocabulary, reading, and supervised indoor and outdoor playtime and gym activities. Additionally, nutritious snacks are offered to the children (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023e).

Elder Care

The Greenstone Elder Abuse Prevention Committee is a committee comprised of representatives that work with or focus on providing support for seniors residing in the Municipality of Greenstone (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023f). The committee provides awareness and education on Elder abuse and facilitates presentations on fraud and Elder abuse to seniors.

Health Services

The Municipality of Greenstone has several health services available throughout the townships within the municipality. Rocky Bay First Nation Health Station is located on the Rocky Bay Indian Reserve No. 1, which serves as the community medical centre (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023g). The Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek health office is located in the Town of Beardmore and provides mental and physical health care services, such as providing health care awareness, education, and prevention workshops (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023h). Longlac has four health service centres: Long Lake #58 First Nation Health Centre, located on the Long Lake #58 First Nation Reserve; Dilico Anishinabek Family Care Health Centre; New Ginoogaming Health Centre; and Ontario Native Women's Association Community Health Outreach, Thunderbird Child and Family Centre (211 Ontario North, Greenstone, 2023i-l). All four of these centres offer primary health care services to the Town of Longlac.

Services through Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)

There are several services offered for members of Municipality of Greenstone through ONWA, described briefly below. The ONWA is a non-profit organization in support of Indigenous women and families within Province of Ontario, providing support services including ending violence against Indigenous women, equal access to justice, education,

health services, environmental stewardship, and economic development (Ontario Native Women's Association, N.D.a). Service overview:

- Centralized Intake: Provides a single point of contact for accessing immediate support and services across the Province.
- Community Health Outreach: Promotes health, healthy lifestyles, education about health care, illness prevention, escaping family violence, and also provides access to cultural programming and ceremony, individual and group sessions and increased community connections for improving better health.
- Ending violence against indigenous women: Provides education, training and tools for empowering and supporting women who are survivors of sexual assault and abuse and promoting healing.
- Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking: Supports communities to provide survivor-focused and localized support and responses to end human trafficking.
- Indigenous Diabetes Education: Educates communities and provides support regarding risks of diabetes and management of the disease.
- Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children: Provides assistance to Indigenous families for providing healthy development of children, and includes family home visits, services coordination and referrals.
- Indigenous Responsible Gambling Awareness: Provides awareness, education, prevention, and resource development on responsible gambling.
- Indigenous Women's Leadership: Provides support for Indigenous women to develop their capacity as leaders in current roles as leaders of organizations and communities.
- Mental Health and Wellness: Provides support and advocacy to Indigenous women and families via a trauma-informed and traditional support framework.
- Mindimooyenh Health Clinic: A community member driven vaccination and healthcare centre.
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Family Support: Provides support to families and friends of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women with reconciliation and healing.
- She is Wise: Focuses on building leadership and capacity based off on Indigenous knowledge, ways of knowing and being. There is a published magazine available online and in print.
- Youth Life Promotion (Mentorship): Provides support to Indigenous youth about suicide prevention, mental health and wellness support, clinical and land-based programming.

Cultural Services

The Municipality of Greenstone has public libraries in Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac, and Nakina, which serves as a cultural centre for the community to support cultural activities (Greenstone, 2023).

Recreational Services

The Municipality of Greenstone offers a variety of recreational services to residents of the municipality (Greenstone, 2023). Programs include public skating, parents and tots, shinny, ice rentals and birthday parties, facility rentals, weight room, Tee-ball and softball, boot camp, skating lessons, and summer day camps at Pickle Lake.

Community Services information for the Municipality of Pickle Lake has been collected principally from online sources, such as 211 Ontario North (211north.ca), an information portal which provides information on social, community, health and government services in Northern Ontario.

Family Services

Tikinagan is a social services organization that provides child and family services for Pickle Lake. It is the largest provider of residential services in Ontario, with a service area that is approximately one third of the province of Ontario, servicing 30 Indigenous communities (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023a). In January 2020, Tikinagan was

designated by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023d).

Tikinagan was created to provide culturally specific child and family services, that emphasize Indigenous culture as part of its child welfare support work. This recognizes that previously support services for children and families were generally provided from outside Indigenous communities, and there were harms inflicted from this approach (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023b).

Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs. The model of “Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin” mandates that in all aspects of service delivery, workers are expected to consult with Elders of the community for wisdom, guidance and teachings, and to receive direction on service delivery (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c). This specifically includes the requirement to consult with First Nations leadership on case management decisions.

An overall goal of the support work by Tikinagan is to keep children at home, and in their home communities. When necessary, foster homes for children in need are located in the child’s community or a nearby community, in order to reduce the distance from home and familiarity.

The Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model mandates that authority rests the Chief and Council to declare that children be placed in Tikinagan care (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, 2023c).

Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development program is designed to enhance school readiness for preschool children who are families across the Kenora District (including those living in Pickle Lake) and six years and younger. The program offers a variety of school readiness programs, such as learning shapes and numbers, building vocabulary, and reading, to address the emotional, physical, cognitive, and spiritual development of children. The program also aims to culturally connect and spiritually root children in the traditional language and history of their family, community, and Nation. The program provides supervised indoor and outdoor playtime and gym activities, as well as afternoon snacks to verify that the children’s needs are met (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023c). To date, there are no daycare programs in the Pickle Lake community (CE Strategies, 2017).

Elder Care

To date, there are no senior housing/assisted living services within Pickle Lake; the nearest services are in Sioux Lookout and Dryden (CE Strategies, 2017).

Health Services

Pickle Lake regularly receives visits from community health nurses from the Northwestern Health Unit in Sioux Lookout to provide primary health care to Pickle Lake residents, such as immunizations and booster shots, at the Pickle Lake Northwestern Health Unit Office (Pickle Lake, 2023). The Northwestern Health Unit also provides dental services for Pickle Lake residents, for both children and adults, at the Pickle Lake Dental Clinic.

The Mishkeegogamang Ojibwe Nation also provides emergency health services to Pickle Lake, where severely ill patients are transported from Pickle Lake to the health centre on reserve, via air ambulance (Mishkeegogamang Ojibwe Nation, 2010a).

The Meno Ya Win Health Centre is a health care facility located in Sioux Lookout but provides services to Pickle Lake (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023i). Some of these services can be provided remotely, such as counselling and telemedicine, to allow residents to receive support without the need to travel to Sioux Lookout.

The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a health centre that provides health services to people of the Northwest Local Health Integration Network, which includes Pickle Lake (CE Strategies, 2017). The health centre offers an expansive range of specialist services to Pickle Lake.

Cultural Services

There are three religious institutes in Pickle Lake: Friendship Baptist Church, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church, and Pickle Lake Gospel Chapel (Mennonite) (CE Strategies, 2017). The Pickle Lake Library is maintained by the township and is designated as a Community Access Site.

Recreational Services

Pickle Lake has a variety of recreational services available, including: the Pickle Lake Arena, which is primarily used for ice skating and hockey in the winter, and volleyball/broomball in the summer; curling rink; bowling alley; fitness centre; public boat launches; and public beach/park; campgrounds; hiking/snowmobile trails; and 10 provincial parks (CE Strategies, 2017).

Communications Services

Part of the Ontario Works program is to provide communication services to individuals seeking employment assistance, which includes providing workshops on resume writing and interviewing, and language skills (Pickle Lake, 2023).

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

The OTN offers specialized medical care through videoconferencing and other tele-diagnostic equipment, enabling specialists to remotely examine and prescribe treatments to patients in their home communities. This reduces the need for patients to travel to receive care, providing greater convenience and accessibility for those living in remote or underserved areas (211 Ontario North, Sioux Lookout, 2023i).

5.4 Recreation

This section outlines the different types of recreation activities and facilities First Nations community members participate in within the LSA and RSA.

Hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting are not considered by Webequie First Nation to be recreational activities, as the “wildlife we harvest are not harvested for pleasure and are not described as game or sport entities as we view them as equal to human beings.” (Webequie First Nation, 2019a and 2019b). See **Section 7** Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource Use which includes these activities for traditional and cultural purposes.

It is important to note that some recreational activities, such as fishing, were identified by participants in focus groups for the Project and are included in this section. Repetition or overlap of activities that may be included in both this section and **Section 7**, to acknowledge the input from Indigenous communities and minimize the potential to exclude relevant information.

This section also acknowledges that hunting, trapping and fishing are activities that are carried out by non-Indigenous people in northern Ontario under various legislation and regulations of the province. These activities are included in this section and do not intend to reflect the traditional and cultural activities of Indigenous communities who have harvested before the establishment of wildlife and fish resource management systems and regulations were introduced.

5.4.1 Local Study Area

5.4.1.1 Webequie First Nation

In the non-traditional land use LSA, Webequie community members have access to programs, facilities and recreational opportunities both on and off-reserve. The following activities were identified:

- Fishing;
- Snowmobiling (Ski-doo);
- Swimming;
- Camping;
- Nature walks, hiking;
- Hockey;
- Sports;
- Broomball;
- Volleyball;
- Seasonal youth programs/camp (Choose Life); and
- School gym.

The facilities used for recreation in Webequie include the hockey rink, playground, school gym, and band offices. A new arena is in development which is reported to cost $15.6 million (Matawa First Nations Management, 2023). Within Webequie First Nation Reserve, there is an outdoor rink in the winter but there is limited space for in-door recreational programs (Webequie First Nation, 2021). Cultural and recreational activities are ongoing within Webequie, but they are limited and not open to everyone. There is a desire to grow the existing programs and include a community gardening program and increase youth drop-in sport activities (Webequie First Nation, 2021). Additional canoe trips, goose camps and regular youth workshops and outings are also part of the Action Plan within the draft CCP. Webequie First Nation is participating in the Community Aboriginal Recreation Activator Program which includes funding to hire an activator to create a recreation plan to meet the needs in their community and enhance community participation in sport and recreation (Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport, 2022).

Focus groups participants for women and youth shared their recreational activities in **Table 5-76**.

Table 5-76: Recreation Activities and The Needs and Barriers for Youth and Women in Webequie First Nation

Community Group	Recreational Activities, Needs and Barriers
Women	**Participation**: dancing, fishing, sports. **Barriers:** trust issues, childcare, language and communications, transportation, lack of support. **Needs:** self-care centre, community gym, full time daycare and childcare, an Elders home, women's support group.
Youth	**Participation**: snowmobiling, fishing, going out onto the land. **Barriers:** cost, family/household financial ability to pay.
Community	**Participation:** fishing, snowmobiling (Ski-doo), swimming, camping, nature walks, hiking, hockey, sports, broomball, volleyball, seasonal youth programs/camp (Choose Life).

Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2023.

Recreational activities that were shared in the Elders focus group were wood carving, hunting, fishing and fish netting, trapping, camping, fish/moose flakes, summer festival, sewing and trail/hikes. Elders' barriers to lands, services, resources, and infrastructure were being confined to reservation lands, restriction to Crown land use, restrictions to

youth due to expensive equipment, challenges to passing down knowledge to youth, affordability of going places and losing knowledge of the land. Their suggestions that were related to recreation access included indoor gym, healthcare, elders home, recreational and educational programs.

The land users focus group noted that they ski-doo in the winter, pick blueberries in August, picnic and relax (AtkinsRéalis Canada Inc., 2023).

Webequie members have also identified in the draft CBLUP and CCP several changes to improve recreation in the community such as an indoor fitness gym, equipment to access/enjoy the land, better recreational programs, a new arena, a cultural recreation/multi-use centre, youth gardening program or greenhouse, playgrounds, swimming pool, more camps for youth groups, family camping and canoe trips. The community also participate in the Community Aboriginal Recreation Activator (CARA) program to hire an activator to create recreation plans (Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport, 2022). Services to support recreation include a program leader, youth activities coordinator, CARA support and a neebinodaminowin/special events coordinator (Webequie First Nation, 2023).

The CCP also highlights recreation within its organizational chart and includes a program leader, youth activities coordinator, a neebinodaminowin/special events coordinator, and CARA support. Recreation is also uniquely included in the fourth direction goal to address environmental quality and relationship with the land, as encouraging recreation, especially young people to spend more time on the land for recreation and education is part of the concept for healing in the community. This is reinforced in the four quadrants of wellness illustrated in the Land-Based Medicine Wheel includes physical, spiritual, mental (intellectual) and emotional aspects of life. It grounds and promotes the First Nations connection to the land. The physical quadrant names the body, lifestyle, supporting others, understanding the land's resources and relationships therein as well as recreation. The fifth direction for community health and wellness, family and social conditions seeks and supports programs for all ages and special needs for the community.

> *"Encouraging our members, particularly our young people, to spend more time on the land through recreational activities and school programs will be healing to our community."* (Webequie First Nation, 2023)

The CCP goal for cultural vibrancy to increase cultural and recreational activities includes year-round recreation, exercise for all ages with a focus on youth, drop-ins, clubs, gym activities like yoga, broomball and weights. The following needs were noted in the CCP:

- More fishing opportunities;
- Permanent land-based camps;
- New arena (on site of old hockey rink);
- Multi-use centre;
- Community and youth gardening and greenhouse;
- Community recreational centre with gym;
- More playgrounds;
- A swimming pool;
- Camping and canoe trips for families and youth; and
- General comment on the need for space for programs and recreation.
- The CCP (Webequie First Nation, 2023) also includes additional notes that relate to recreation:
- The connection to land and land-based healing camps for detox and healthcare;
- The demands of employment leave less time to be out on the land;
- Many community members do not feel connect to their lands; and
- Programs for youth and families to go out onto the land is a strength.

In the Three-Tier Model, the second and third tiers of two-days walk from the community may have recreational interests in these areas. There may be an emphasis on the second tier being one-day's walk from the community as the draft CBLUP notes that the Webequie First Nation community make frequent use of the surrounding 40-50 km radius from the community for traditional and recreational purposes (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

Being on the land is an essential quality to life, culture, identity and continuity to Webequie community as "[e]ncouraging our members, particularly our young people, to spend more time on the land through recreational activities and school programs will be healing to our community" (Webequie First Nation, 2023).

The CCP weaves recreation through its strengths, challenges and opportunities described in environmental quality and relationship with the land, and community health and wellness, family and social conditions. Youth participation in recreation and healing pathways with the land are especially emphasized. Webequie First Nation's Land Based Medicine Wheel ties together the mental, emotional, spiritual and intellectual which can be supported by recreational opportunities out on the land. One of Webequie First Nation's strengths is providing recreation for all ages.

A women's focus group shared that what they did for fun included dancing, fishing, sports, and summer festival. The barriers they provided were related to trust issues, childcare, language related barriers, nepotism, transportation, lack of support from families and lack of communication. They indicated the recreational needs for women in the community were a self-care centre, community gym, full time childcare and daycare, an Elders home, and women's support group (AtkinsRéalis, 2022f). The broader community's needs included better rink maintenance, better sauna, greenhouse/community garden, support for two-spirit people/awareness, better communications and planning for existing infrastructure (AtkinsRéalis, 2022f).

The Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Gaming and Ministry of Sport have developed programs in partnership with First Nations communities and organizations to deliver recreational activities. The Sport Pathway for Ontario Native Wellness (Government of Ontario, 2024f) works in partnership with Indigenous Sport and Wellness Ontario to support regional opportunities for recreational and advanced sport/high performance competition for First Nations communities through youth camps, athlete programs, coaching and training, wellness, tournaments, and youth leadership programming. The CARA program provides First Nations with funding to hire an activator to organize and deliver recreational activities and programming.

5.4.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Recreational activities in the Indigenous communities located within the LSA are similar to those in Webequie. **Table 5-77** outlines a summary of outdoor recreation and facilities located in Indigenous communities in the LSA.

Table 5-77: Recreation in Indigenous Communities in the LSA

Indigenous Community	Commercial Use, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Attawapiskat First Nation	Attawapiskat First Nation has the Reg Louttit Sportsplex located within the community and it includes a gym, ice rink, field and weight room. It is also used as the community centre for events and programs (211 Ontario North, 2021).
Eabametoong First Nation	Ozhiski Outpost is located within Eabametoong First Nation traditional territory (Steel, 2013). Eabametoong First Nation includes the Joseph Jacob Late Memorial Arena for sport and community events. Eabametoong First Nation is participating in the Community Aboriginal Recreation Activator Program which includes funding to hire an activator to create a recreation plan to meet the needs in their community and enhance community participation in sport and recreation (Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport (MTCC), 2022).
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Kasabonika Lake First Nation includes a community centre used for a variety of sports and social gatherings.
Marten Falls First Nation	Marten Falls First Nation includes an arena which is used for sports and community events. Visitor accommodation includes Ogoki Inn and Contractors Cabin.

Indigenous Community	Commercial Use, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Neskantaga First Nation	Neskantaga received funding from the federal government to upgrade their existing arena and community centre. Change rooms will be added, new insulation and expansion of an accessible gym (Kaufman 2021).
Nibinamik First Nation	Nibinamik First Nation are also participating in the Community Aboriginal Recreation Activator Program which includes funding to hire an activator to create a recreation plan to meet the needs in their community and enhance community participation in sport and recreation (MTCC, 2022).
Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation	Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation includes recreation facilities for sports and community events (211 Ontario North, 2020).

Nibinamik First Nation also collected the following information about sports and recreation in the community in 2014 (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). Two youth workers organized activities such as sports tournaments and excursions onto the land. One also worked as a Community Activator, as part of the CARA program by the province. Health staff also organized Diabetes Wilderness Walk. An annual youth wilderness retreat to O-ma-day-na-moh-win-nik (the Breathing Grounds) and twice-yearly culture weeks were also organized for the community. However, the organizers who ran recreational programs for hockey, broomball and volleyball were volunteers. Nibinamik First Nations hockey program was popular having eight teams and coaches. Other summer outdoor recreation included camping, hunting, fishing and trapping. Sport and recreation are understood as benefitting more than physical health but also other effects on emotional and spiritual wellbeing, anxiety and depression reduction and the community's ability to bring people together. The results of their 2012 community survey indicated the need for more activities, activities for all ages, a youth/fitness centre and repairing safety issues were the largest concerns for the community. Additional challenges included inconsistent funding for operational staff, cost or lack of affordable fees to participate, shortages of equipment, and the need to repair or replace recreational infrastructure.

The youth in Nibinamik First Nation identified that a youth centre as their first priority to create a place where they could leave boredom, drugs and alcohol and truly be themselves (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). The youth centre would include spaces for indoor games and sports like ping pong and foosball, an exercise room, gym and a stage. Other suggestions in addition to the youth centre included a pool hall, library and new arena. Programming and activities that are oriented to youth, especially older youth, were also identified as there seemed to be enough programming that targeted younger kids. About 38% of the 89 community members who participated in the "Searching Together Survey" from 2012 supported the need for more activities. Fitness is important for both physical and mental health (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014b).

In 2021, Neskantaga First Nation received funding to upgrade their arena, add insulation, change rooms, an accessible gym and other safety improvements to their arenas to make it an all-ages space (Government of Canada, 2021).

Gooseberry Tourism, Hunting and Fishing Guides, operated by Weenusk First Nation members, offers unique outdoor experiences in Weenusk First Nation. They provide guided trips to locations such as Polar Bear Provincial Park, Gooseberry Brook, and the Hudson Bay Coast (Gooseberry Tourism, n.d.). These tours include transportation, accommodation, and experienced guides who share their deep knowledge of the land and its wildlife (Gooseberry Tourism, n.d.).

Snowmobiling and ATVing may also be popular activities, although no formal trail networks were available through desktop research in the LSA. In 2011, the average cost of diesel fuel in northern Ontario communities was $1.24/litre which was 24% higher than the average in 2010 (Arriaga, M. et al., 2012).

5.4.2 Regional Study Area

Snowmobiling and ATVing are a popular tourist and recreational activity within Northern Ontario, however, there are no formal Ontario Trail Network snowmobile or ATV trails maintained within Project Footprint, LSA or RSA. Recreational snowmobiling and ATVing likely occurs outside of formally recognized trails by local and regional snowmobilers and ATV riders.

There are no formally identified canoe routes, aquatic access points or commercial boat caches within the Project Footprint, LSA or RSA. Commercial boat caches (a place where a boat is allowed to be stored) are typically managed by a local guided outfitters and commercial camps.

The MNRF manages hunting activities through regulated Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) throughout Ontario. The Project Footprint, LSA and RSA are within WMU 1D which outlines specific hunting seasons for residents and non-resident hunters (people who are not residents of Ontario) (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022b). Non-resident hunters have a more restrictive hunting season. **Table 5-78** outlines the 2023 Firearm hunting season dates within WMU 1D for moose, deer and black bears for residents and non-residents of Ontario. **Table 5-79** outlines the estimated number of Moose Hunters and Harvest within Wildlife Management Unit 1D from 2018 – 2022 (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2023d). **Table 5-80** outlines the estimated number of Bear Hunters and Harvest within Wildlife Management Unit 1D from 2018 – 2022 (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2023e).

Fishery Management Zones (FMZ) 1, 2 and 3 are located in the Project's RSA. There are no monitoring reports or management plans for these zones (MNR, 2025) and non-Indigenous fishers must follow Ontario's Fishing Regulations (MNR, 2025a).

Table 5-78: 2023 Firearm Hunting Regulations for Hunters within WMU 1D

Wildlife Management Unit	Moose Hunting Season (MNRF, 2023a)		White-Tailed Deer Hunting Season (MNRF, 2023a)		Black Bear Hunting Season (MNRF, 2023b)	
	Residents	Non-residents	Residents	Non-residents	Residents	Non-residents
1D	Sept 16 – Dec 15	Sept 18 – Nov 15	N/A	N/A	May 1 – Jun 15	May 1 – Jun 15

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2023f/g.

Table 5-79: Estimated Moose Hunters and Harvest within WMU 1D (2018 – 2022)

Wildlife Management Unit	Year	Estimated Active Moose Hunters (MNRF, 2023c)	Estimated Total Moose Harvest by Moose Hunters (MNRF, 2023c)
1D	2018	47	9
1D	2019	55	9
1D	2020	107	8
1D	2021	85	12
1D	2022	86	10

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022d.

Table 5-80: Estimated Bear Hunters and Harvest within WMU 1D (2018-2022)19

Wildlife Management Unit	Year	Estimated Active Bear Hunters (MNRF, 2023d)	Estimated Total Bear Harvest (MNRF 2023d)
1D	2018	14	0
1D	2019	12	4
1D	2020	14	1
1D	2021	10	2
1D	2022	20	0

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022e.

Hunting and trapping are actively occurring within this area and are not only for recreation and tourist users, but also by local residents and Indigenous Peoples. Many members of Indigenous communities do not require a number of hunting requirements stipulated by the MNRF as they are recognized as exercising their Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights.

5.4.2.1 Indigenous Communities in the Regional Study Area

Recreational activities in the Indigenous communities located within the RSA are similar to those in Webequie and LSA for their outdoor recreational activities and also involve community-based sports and activities organized by the band office. Recreation facilities may include baseball diamonds, gym/community centres, hockey arenas, playgrounds, fields and other facilities. Youth and community events may be hosted by recreation departments within each First Nation band. **Table 5-81** outlines a summary of recreation activities in the Indigenous communities in the RSA.

Table 5-81: Summary of Recreational Activities in First Nations communities in the RSA

Indigenous Community	Recreation
Aroland First Nation	Aroland First Nation has a community hall, outdoor hockey rink, sports field and playground. (211 Ontario North, 2023a).
Fort Albany First Nation	The recreation department at Fort Albany First Nation develops all social, recreational and special events for the community. Amenities include beach area, baseball diamond, gymnasium skating rink and community centre. Activities include ball hockey, badminton, volleyball, basketball team, game nights, group fitness, youth workshops (211 Ontario Noth, 2023k).
Ginoogaming First Nation	The Youth program and Ginoogaming First Nation plans and implements all social, recreation and special events for the community. It has a baseball diamond, gymnasium, skating rink, and youth centre (formerly training centre), organizes a boys' and girls' week at Dilico Summer Camp in East Loon Lake (Thunder Bay), and helps organizes a local youth council. Programs include game nights, group fitness classes, excursions, volleyball nights and workshops (Northwest Health Line, 2024).
Kashechewan First Nation	Kashechewan First Nation has a community hall, gym and arena which hosts sports and social gatherings (211 Ontario North, 2023b).
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation includes a community centre used for a variety of sports and social gatherings (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, N.D).
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	In 2021, Kingfisher Lake received funds to renovate and install ice plant at their arena, rehabilitate a floor for sports and training activities (Ontario Newsroom, 2021). They also participate in the CARA program (MTCC, 2022).
Long Lake #58 First Nation	Long Lake #58 includes a community hall where social, recreational and special events are held (211 Ontario North, 2023c). They also participate in the CARA program (MTCC, 2022).

19 https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/black-bear-hunting-activity-and-harvests

Indigenous Community	Recreation
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	Information regarding commercial, recreational and tourism within the community is limited.
North Caribou Lake First Nation	Information regarding commercial, recreational and tourism within the community is limited.
Wapekeka First Nation	Information regarding commercial, recreational and tourism within the community is limited.
Wawakapewin First Nation	Information regarding commercial, recreational and tourism within the community is limited.
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	Wunnumin Lake First Nation includes an arena and gym for sports and community events. (Northwest Health Line, 2023e).

5.4.2.2 Municipalities, Cities and Townships

Table 5-82 describes the recreation opportunities in the municipalities within the RSA.

Table 5-82: Recreation in Nearby Municipalities

Municipality	Recreation and Tourism
Township of Pickle Lake	The Township of Pickle Lake is accessible via road. It is the last stop off Highway 599. Recreational facilities in the area include an arena, community hall, curling rink, bowling alley and fitness centre. The town features two municipal campgrounds and several crown land camping sites. Recreation in Pickle Lake include fishing, hunting, boating, canoeing and kayaking (Pickle Lake, 2023).
Municipality of Sioux Lookout/Hudson	Hudson lies on the shore of Lost Lake (gateway to Lac Seul), a 20-minute drive from downtown Sioux Lookout. Sioux Lookout is home to many annual festivals and events throughout the year as well as a lively arts and culture scene. The municipality has a number of beaches, parks and playgrounds including an outdoor arena and sports complex, a fitness centre and Cedar Bay – a recreation complex complete with chalet, cabins, equestrian facilities and trails for hiking and riding. In addition, other recreational activities include boating, fishing and snowmobiling. The municipality has two community centres which host a variety of activities throughout the year (Sioux Area Seniors Activity Centre and Lost Lake Drop-In Centre), and a library (Sioux Lookout, 2022).
City of Thunder Bay	Thunder Bay is accessible by road and has an international airport with daily direct flights to regional destinations, Winnipeg and Toronto. It offers Fort William Historical Park, museums, art galleries and studios to visit, live performances including the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and community theatre groups. Conservation Areas managed by the Lakehead Regional Conservation Authority can found in and nearby the city, which also host a variety of outdoor recreational activities and programs. Provincial and National wilderness parks outside city limits include Kakabeka, Ouimet Canyon, Sleeping Giant, Quetico, Wabikimi and Pukaskwa. The various natural attractions include parks and conservation areas used for activities such as biking, hiking, camping, paddling, fishing, rock climbing, kayaking, angling and sailing (VisitThunderBay, 2018).
Municipality of Greenstone	Greenstone is accessibly by air, road and train. Recreational amenities include four community centres, a swimming pool and a library. The municipality has over 40 resorts, outfitters and charters for hunting and fishing. There are seven private campgrounds in the Municipality of Greenstone. Other activities in the area include ice and rock-climbing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing (Greenstone, Activities and Outdoors, 2023).
City of Timmins	Timmins is accessible via Air, rail and road. Recreational amenities include swimming pools, community centres, skateparks, sports fields and arenas. In addition, outdoor recreational opportunities include hiking, biking, ATVing, canoeing, kayaking, wakeboarding, golfing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, and dog sledding. Some of the best cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in Ontario takes place at Porcupine Ski Runners, with great downhill skiing and snowboarding available at the Mount Jamieson Resort all located within city limits. Cultural amenities include a top-rated symphony orchestra, choirs, theater groups, an ultra modern public library and the Timmins Museum National Exhibition Centre (Tourism Timmins, 2013).

5.5 Education and Training

Education and training services and facilities are limited in many fly-in First Nation communities. In the 2015/2016 school year, high-school completion and post-secondary participation rates were higher among non-Indigenous youths in Canada compared to Indigenous youths (Statistics Canada, 2021b). However, when comparing First Nation youths living on reserve to First Nation youths living off reserve, those that live off reserve are more likely to receive a high-school diploma, which is most likely due to the lack of accessible high-schools for youths living in remote communities.

This section describes the existing conditions of education and training services and facilities in the LSA and RSA using the following indicators:

- Demand for community education and training services;
- Supply and capacity of community education and training services; and
- Learning of traditional knowledge, which includes culture, language, and Natural Laws.

Information on education and training services and facilities of communities was collected from Statistics Canada, municipal and provincial government websites, and First Nation research studies. The locations in the LSA where data were collected include Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation. Data were collected for Indigenous communities in the RSA, including the Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakepewin First Nation, and Wunnumin First Nation. Education and Training Services and Facilities data in municipalities, cities, and towns within the RSA were also collected, including Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins, Greenstone, and Pickle Lake. The information presented in this section will provide information on the current education and training services and facilities available in each community, especially under-reported communities, and which education and training services and facilities are in demand.

There is also a focus on reviewing traditional education components that could potentially be impacted by the Project. Interviews with Elders and Knowledge Keepers are conducted through a community interpreter. Community will receive copies of all interviews, which can be incorporated into community history to be passed down in the way as each community sees fit.

5.5.1 Local Study Area

The LSA Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following Education and Training Services and Facilities where information is available within the communities:

- Local schools and educational facilities;
- Training Facilities and Programs; and
- Indigenous focused training and education.

The in-person educational opportunities are generally limited to one to two schools within the communities. All communities have elementary and middle schools but completing high school in-person is limited to a few of the communities. If completing high school in-person is not available, students can travel outside of the community or complete high school online with the support of educators within their communities. Schools are generally smaller in size and typically include teacherages for teachers at the schools. High school is provided within the regional service centres, such as Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay and Timmins. Schools within the communities have Indigenous focused training and education with cultural components. Youth camps are available in some of the communities and these

focus on traditional Indigenous cultural components and land-based activities. No post secondary educational opportunities exist within the communities. Some communities have an educational and training hub where post secondary courses can be taken through distance education and online courses. Employment training programs are available online in all communities and some of the LSA communities have in person training facilities for employment services.

This section reviews Education and Training Services and Facilities that currently exist within Webequie and other Indigenous communities within the LSA. Online education and online training also provide support to many Indigenous members due to the remote locations of the Indigenous communities.

5.5.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Webequie First Nation has a Kindergarten to Grade 10 Band operated school on reserve – Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre. Simon Jacob is run by the Webequie First Nation Education Authority under the direction of the Chief and Council (SJMEC, 2023). Simon Jacob offers culturally relevant content, that reflects the traditions, language and way of life of Webequie First Nation and the Anishinaabe people. The school operates on a culturally sensitive schedule which allows students to participate in spring and fall hunts, take leave with families for camping, hunting and family enrichment (Webequie First Nation, 2024a). Simon Jacob has a teacher on site that supports the online education component for students and works in partnership with Keewaytinnook Internet High School (KIHS) or Wahsa for students to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. An interview conducted in 2022 outlined that there were 165 students enrolled with 50 students enrolled in high school (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). Simon Jacob was built in 1993 and includes three portable classrooms, a school warehouse, education building and teacher residences for the teachers. There are 12 teacherages that provide living spaces for teachers and 6 storage buildings associated with teacherages (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

One of the goals of the Webequie First Nation On-reserve Land Use Plan is to strengthen the educational opportunities in the community including expansion of the existing school and youth camps (Webequie First Nation, 2019). Expanding the school would help with overcrowding of the classrooms and additional space for programs and training to be offered within the community (Webequie First Nation, 2021).

An employment training program is available through Matawa First Nations, funded by Employment and Social Development Canada (SNC-Lavalin, 2021). Approximately 42 workers were certified through the program in its recent history, which included millwrights, heavy equipment operators, remote camp cooks, and underground miners. However, due to a lack of job availability in Webequie, the program is not utilized currently, and certified trainees' skills are therefore also under-utilized. The Economic Development Officer expressed concerns that when the mine opens many certified members of the community will be in their 40's and 50's, and thus they are considering training younger members (18 to 20 years old), as heavy equipment operators and mechanics for the Project; additionally, project management training is planned. The community is hoping to target more education and engagement opportunities towards members under 35 years old.

An esteemed leader of the community commented that accessibility to education and training programs for youths in the community is lacking, mostly due to insufficient funding (SNC-Lavalin, 2022i). Even after graduating from high school, many youths are unable to find employment. The community would like to train more youths in skilled trades such as plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and mechanics (SNC-Lavalin, 2022j). Having members of the community join the police force would also be beneficial for the community as they would have an enhanced understanding of the community and potential insights to resolve conflicts amicably.

The education system was managed by the Department of Indian Affairs until September 1994 when the community took over (SNC-Lavalin, 2022c). However, from interviews it was heard that after the community took over management of the education system, the quality of the education degraded significantly (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). Those who graduated from this education system were at a similar level as a grade six or seven student, with most graduates not

knowing how to write in cursive or type on a keyboard. As a result of the differences in education levels, training becomes much more important to community members when more employment opportunities within the community arise. There are several youth members of the community who are interested in new employment opportunities, but the majority of those interested are in the older demographic of the community; attracting younger members to take part in training opportunities is difficult because most youths begin to lose interest in their 20's.

The level of education offered at schools on reserve range from preschool (known as Aboriginal Headstart) and kindergarten to grade 12 (online) (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). Distance education programs are also available, such as Wahsa in Sioux Lookout and KIHS (an online high school that offers courses through Kuhkenah Network (KNET)).

Special education and services, such as Jordan's Principle and special counselling, are expensive for schools in the community (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). Moreover, some of these special services are difficult for members of the community to access as flying out is expensive and time consuming. There are also housing and expense problems when bringing counsellors into the community. Housing is limited to five rooms at the hotel and the cost for flying and accommodation for counselors are paid by the schools. Access to the internet has resolved this issue in most cases, as counseling can be done virtually, but not everyone has access to the internet. Most classes have less than 20 students per class and each class has an education assistant who are part of the community. Although the COVID-19 pandemic restricted services to the community, speech language therapy is a service that is vital for the community and was not discontinued. Rather, speech language therapy shifted to a virtual format and in-person sessions on reserve were limited.

Schools on reserve focus on the land, so there are a lot of cultural programs for children (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). Learning also extends beyond social sciences, as the schools integrate seasonality into their program (e.g., camping in the spring). Having these cultural programs available and exclusive to remote communities also reinforces their cultural identity. Learning different perspectives is an important component in the program as this teaches children both Indigenous and western ideologies. However, long-distance options for post-secondary education are not available for the community. Not all children attend school on reserve as they follow their family off the reserve for various personal reasons, such as medical care. The school has 15 teachers, which includes a mix of people from the community and people from outside of the community.

One of the limitations of schools on reserve, and schools in remote communities in general, is lack of opportunities for partnerships and collaborations (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). The main barrier preventing access to partnerships and collaboration is the remoteness of the community. Access to the internet has made it possible for students in the community to connect to mentorship programs via virtual conferencing, alleviating the need for students or mentors to fly in or out of the reserve. Remote conferencing also alleviates the costs and time associated with travelling, making it a good alternative method of attaining mentorship. Partnerships with colleges and universities, such as Lakehead University, would also be beneficial for Webequie First Nation as they would provide members within the community to take on more specialized roles that can only be obtained through post-secondary education, such as psychologists and speech therapists.

Partnerships that are available for the community include the Outside Looking In program, dance programs, Future Leaders Program, and the Learning Bird Program. In the dance program, choreographers fly up to the community once a month and stay for up to a week to teach the children. Best performing students in the dance program are invited to attend a dance camp in Toronto for four to five weeks and are eligible for the Future Leaders Program. The Learning Bird Program teaches children Indigenous language and culture via activities and lessons.

Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) which had its grand opening following renovations, new construction and relocation to a larger facility on September 29, 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2023e), now includes new student housing, gymnasium, mental health services, recreation opportunities, trades programming, land-based learning, distance and cooperative education, cultural and spiritual programming. The school day comprises of a 11-hour holistic learning environment for students. Webequie First Nation students are also eligible for higher education at these facilities, which

allows accommodations (Government of Canada, 2023a). The Matawa Learning Centre (now MECC) was developed initially in 2010 as a result of Seven Youth Inquest to allow Matawa youth to learn and grow in a safe environment (Government of Canada, 2023a). The MECC also has following facilities for students: evening and weekend activities and educational support, after hours student support such as On-Call Services and Safe Sobering Site, trades and co-operative education, and also spaces such as the new gymnasium, computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces. The accommodation centre is equipped with 24-hour support, food and recreational services, spiritual and cultural activities, health services, mental health services such as counselling, elder's kitchen, and a hockey rink (Matawa Education, 2021).

Members that return to school to pursue post-secondary education are generally female, which may be a result of fewer employment opportunities for women (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). For members who are interested in pursuing post-secondary education or distance education, the community provides financial aid when possible. Many distance education courses, for instance, are paid for by the community. Members of the community are generally not pressured to pursue post-secondary education as many tasks within the community do not require post-secondary education. Additionally, some certifications obtained from training programs cannot be transferred to other universities/colleges, resulting in some certifications becoming useless.

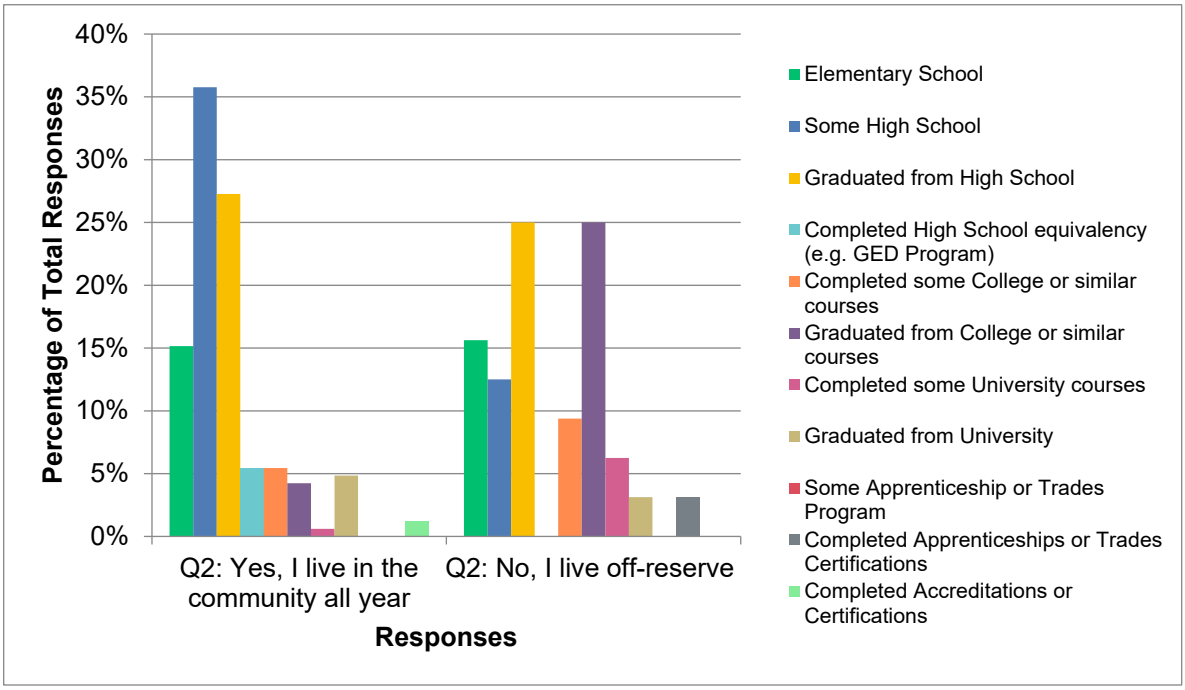
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the community and the world had to adjust to the new government and health regulations to prevent spread of the disease. This caused a shift towards virtual meetings, which reduced costs of needing to fly in and out of the reserve and caused more people and organizations off the reserve to offer more virtual services, such as counseling. The shift towards virtual meetings also provided an opportunity for members of the community to experience new technology for the first time (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). Members are also now able to more readily access training programs and counselling that were previously inaccessible to the community. Although not all homes have a good connection to the internet, the school has reliable access.

Education within the community is well supported (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h) and funding is available. However, there have been situations where there was no funding for Webequie, but it was understood that other communities did receive funding. Students that leave the reserve for school have found it difficult as they experience culture shock and financial problems. Culture shock is inevitable for any member of the community that plan to pursue education off the reserve but having distance education courses could provide students in the community an opportunity to experience education outside of the community and determine whether they prefer to study on or off the reserve. There are concerns that when the Project is completed, children will be interested in leaving the reserve, especially older youths (i.e., 17 to 18 years old).

Schools on reserve also lack the technology and physical space to function efficiently (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h). The school lacks a library, computer room and staff room, which have all been repurposed into classrooms. The lack of physical space also means that the high school students do not have their own space. School infrastructure also needs to be repaired, maintained and upgraded. The community is hopeful that economic development revenues resulting from mining and infrastructure projects will facilitate more money and technology to alleviate these problems. An all-season road will also provide easier access to resources.

An online survey was conducted by AtkinsRéalis to collect data from individuals living on reserve and off reserve on their level of education. When individuals were asked about the highest level of education they completed, responses differed between those who live on reserve and those that live off reserve. For individuals that live on reserve, 59 out of 165 responses (35.8%) indicated that some high school (i.e., having attended high school but not graduated) was the highest level of education completed, as shown on **Figure 5-90**. For individuals that live off-reserve, a quarter of the response (8 out of 32 responses) indicated that the highest level of education completed was having graduated from high school, and another quarter of the responses indicated that the highest level of education completed was having graduated from college or similar courses. Overall, most individuals that responded to the survey indicated that education up to high school was the highest level they completed, while very few individuals indicated that they completed post-secondary levels of education (college and university) and apprenticeships or trade certifications.

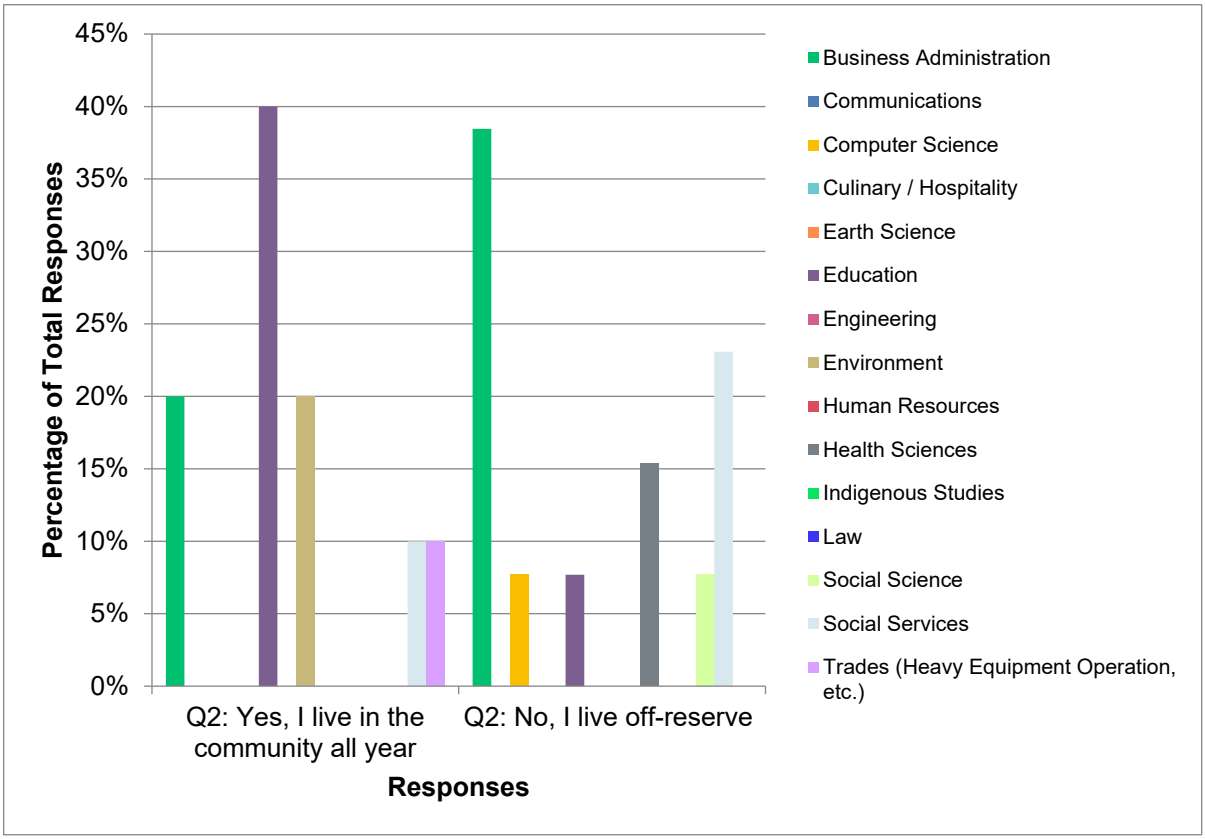
Figure 5-90: Highest Level of Education Completed by Webequie First Nation – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022a.

When individuals were asked about the field of study they took in school, education was the most common response from individuals that live on reserve (8 out of 20 responses; 40%), while business administration was the most common response from individuals that live off the reserve (5 out of 13 responses; 38.5%), as shown on **Figure 5-91**. Among all responses, several fields were not studied by any of the respondents, which includes communications, culinary/hospitality, earth sciences, engineering, human resources, Indigenous studies, and law.

Figure 5-91: Field of Study from Individuals Living on and Off the Reserve – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022a.

5.5.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

5.5.1.2.1 Attawapiskat First Nation

Attawapiskat First Nation has two schools on-reserve. They are operated/managed by the Attawapiskat First Nation Education Authority (AFNEA) (AFNEA, 2023). Attawapiskat Elementary school (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8) has been in use since 2014 and includes a computer lab, cafeteria, music room, tech shop and classrooms (AFNEA, 2023). The school can accommodate up to 540 students. There are multiple outdoor playing fields, and a gym located at the school. Vezina Secondary School includes 10 classrooms, a kitchen, an art room, a computer lab and a tech shop (AFNEA, 2023). The school schedule allows students to participate in spring and fall hunts (e.g., a two-week Goose Break). There are approximately 800 students who attend both schools (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023h).

AFNEA provides additional community support with the Community Learning Office at the Attawapiskat Development Corporation. Contact North has a partnership with Attawapiskat First Nation, and they provide over 18,000 online and distance education courses at the centre through e-learning and distance courses (Bell, 2015). The online courses include college and university courses as well as literacy, basic skills and other training (Bell, 2015). The centre is operated by Contact North, Ontario's Distance Education and Training Network, and is equipped with learning technologies, internet access, computer workstations. The centre is staffed by a local coordinator who provides additional assistance.

Attawapiskat has a Northern College access centre to support Northern College students in the area (211 Ontario North, Northern College, 2023).

The Mushkegowuk Council Employment & Training Service (METS) is a training service offered for members of the Mushkegowuk Nations, which includes Attawapiskat First Nation (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023e). METS has been operating since 1997 and provides employment and training funds for Mushkegowuk Council First Nations. Financial assistance provided by the service may cover staff wages, mandatory employment related costs, and overhead costs. The objective of METS is to assist individuals preparing to enter the labour market by providing work experience and developmental learning experience to in-school individuals during the summer. METS offers workplace-based training to assist employers (including self-employed individuals) through negotiated contributions to training to meet their current or future skill needs, as well as to retrain individuals whose skills have been made redundant through technology, or by market, legislative or regulatory change. The services provided by METS include computers and internet access, employment insurance application, cover letter and resume writing, employment and training applications, social insurance applications, local job postings, and resource materials (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023e).

Camp services are available to the youth in the Attawapiskat community by Camp Chikepak, a two-week youth camp held at Camp Bickell on Chapman Lake (Grech, 2022). This is an annual camp that is open to youths aged 9-14 years old across the Mushkegowuk territory. The camp experience focusses on land based/ cultural activities. Costs are covered by Choose Life, which is funded through a Nishnawbe Aski Nation program.

In 2019, Omushkego Education Student Success hosted a Cree Language and Culture Teachers Gathering to create a culturally relevant curriculum based on land-based Omushkego culture (Omushkego Mushkegowuk Council, 2021). Omushkego Education Student Success supports Attawapiskat First Nation community. The Omushkego Land-Based Camp Activities Teacher's and Principal's Toolkit was developed from this gathering. This toolkit provides educators with resources to integrate seasonality into their classroom programs. Land-based camp activities for children such as Spring Goose Camp Activities, Summer Celebrations, Fall or Winter Moose Camp Activities and Winter Fishing Camp outline specific activities that can be undertaken during each camp (Omushkego, 2021).

5.5.1.2.2 Eabametoong First Nation

John C. Yesno Education Centre is located on the Eabametoong First Nation Reserve and was operated/managed by the Eabametoong First Nation Education Authority. In January 2024, John C. Yesno Education Centre burned down due to arson. The community is "working with provincial, federal and Indigenous organizations to set up virtual education so the students can continue learning" (Law, 2024). If Eabametoong First Nation members wanted to attend secondary and post-secondary schools in person, they had to travel to Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout and Sault Ste. Marie to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Eabametoong First Nation members can take part in training and certification courses offered by Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS) (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). There is an in-community employment coordinator who is available for members on reserve (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023).

Eabametoong First Nation students have the opportunity to take part in Matawa's Education and Care Centre's (MECC) Outdoor Education Program and Matawa Education and Care Centre's Elders Program (Matawa Education, 2019a). The outdoor education program is made up of six Land-based and Outdoor Learning credits and allows students to connect with the land and water. Activities include (but not limited to) trapping, outdoor skills, camping, canoeing, and fishing (Matawa Education, 2019). Students travel from one Matawa First Nation to another during this program. The Elder's program supports Elder's going into the community to provide support to students with traditional activities such as smudging, big drum making, hand drum making, drumming, feasts beading, traditional teachings, storytelling, workshops, traditional medicines, hide tanning, hunting and trapping (Matawa Education, 2019b).

Following the grand opening of the MECC subsequent to renovations, new construction and relocation to a larger facility on September 29, 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2023e), the centre has increased capacity to house students and also provides additional services and facilities (gymnasium, mental health services, recreation opportunities, trades

programming, land-based learning, distance and cooperative education, cultural and spiritual programming, computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces, 24-hour support, food and recreational services, spiritual and cultural activities, health services, mental health services such as counselling, elder's kitchen, and a hockey rink (Matawa Education, 2021).

5.5.1.2.3 Kasabonika Lake First Nation

Chief Simeon McKay Education Centre offers school for students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 within Kasabonika Lake First Nation. The school is administered/ operated by Sineonokway Education Authority (211 Ontario North, 2023az). The student population is approximately 300 students with 30 staff members. The Kasabonika Lake First Nation School Facility Project includes the construction of a new grade seven to 12 school and will be approximately 33,000 square feet. This new school will support an additional 180 students from grade seven to 12 (Remi Network, 2019). It will feature a music room, art room, life skills room and native language and culture room (Penn-Co, 2023). The school will also include teacherage residences (Penn-Co, 2023). This project also includes a renovation and addition to the existing Junior Kindergarten to Grade six school.

Kasabonika Lake First Nation also includes a resource centre for early childhood development. This centre focuses on improving the health and social development of preschool children and their families (Northwest Health Line, Kasabonika Resource Centre, 2023a).

5.5.1.2.4 Marten Falls First Nation

Henry Coaster Memorial School offers school for Marten Falls First Nation students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. The school is administered/operated by Marten Falls Education Authority (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023a). In 2017, there were 46 students enrolled at the school (Teach for Canada, Marten Falls, 2017). The school includes an indigenous cultural and language rotunda, gym and baseball diamond. The school includes teacherages residences with a new fourplex currently being built (Teach for Canada, Marten Falls, 2017). Marten Falls Education Authority provides financial assistance for students to attend Grade nine to 12 in Geraldton or Thunder Bay (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls First Nation, 2023a). Every spring, the school hosts a Culture Week that teaches traditional skills such as trapping, skinning a beaver, setting up rabbit snares and traditional art (Teach for Canada, Marten Falls, 2017).

Marten Falls First Nation members can also take part in training and certification courses offered by KKETS (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). There is an in-community employment coordinator who is available for members on reserve (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023).

Marten Falls First Nation students have the opportunity to take part in Matawa's Education and Care Centre's Outdoor Education Program and Matawa Education and Care Centre's Elders Program (Matawa Education, 2019a). The outdoor education program is made up of six land-based and outdoor learning credits and allows students to connect with the land and water. Activities include (but not limited to) trapping, outdoor skills, camping, canoeing, and fishing (Matawa Education, 2019). Students travel from one Matawa First Nation to another during this program. The Elder's program supports Elder's going into the community to provide support to students with traditional activities such as smudging, big drum making, hand drum making, drumming, feasts beading, traditional teachings, storytelling, workshops, traditional medicines, hide tanning, hunting, and trapping (Matawa Education, 2019b).

MECC which had its grand opening following renovations, new construction and relocation to a larger facility on September 29, 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2023e), now includes new student housing, gymnasium, mental health services, recreation opportunities, trades programming, land-based learning, distance and cooperative education, cultural and spiritual programming. The school day comprises of a 11-hour holistic learning environment for students. Marten Falls First Nation students are also eligible for higher education at these facilities, which allows accommodations (Government of Canada, 2023a). The Matawa Learning Centre (now MECC) was developed initially in 2010 as a result of Seven Youth Inquest to allow Matawa youth to learn and grow in a safe environment (Government of Canada,

2023a). The MECC also has following facilities for students: evening and weekend activities and educational support, after hours student support such as On-Call Services and Safe Sobering Site, trades and co-operative education, and also spaces such as the new gymnasium, computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces. The accommodation centre is equipped with 24-hour support, food and recreational services, spiritual and cultural activities, health services, mental health services such as counselling, elder's kitchen, and a hockey rink (Matawa Education, 2021).

5.5.1.2.5 Neskantanga First Nation

Neskantaga Education Centre offers schooling for Neskantaga First Nations students from junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 (211 Ontario North – Neskantaga First Nation School, 2023). High school is offered online, which is delivered at the elementary school

In August 2014, the Neskantaga Training Centre was opened. This centre was provided through a partnership with Aecon and Matawa First Nations' Kijkenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS). The training centre provides local access to community-based education, as well as trades, and apprenticeship training for Indigenous people in northern and remote areas (Aecon, 2023). The centre is a multi-purpose facility which includes e-learning tools and programs and is owned and operated by Matawa First Nations. The community employment coordinator position at Neskantaga is currently vacant (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023).

Neskantaga First Nation students have the opportunity to take part in Matawa's Education and Care Centre's Outdoor Education Program and Matawa Education and Care Centre's Elders Program (Matawa Education, 2019a). The outdoor education program is made up of six Land-based and Outdoor Learning credits and allows students to connect with the land and water. Activities include (but not limited to) trapping, outdoor skills, camping, canoeing, and fishing (Matawa Education, 2019a). Students travel from one Matawa First Nation to another during this program. The Elder's program supports Elder's going into the community to provide support to students with traditional activities such as: smudging, big drum making, hand drum making, drumming, feasts beading, traditional teachings, storytelling, workshops, traditional medicines, hide tanning, hunting trapping (Matawa Education, 2019b). Matawa Post Secondary provides financial, academic, and tutoring support for students to assist in meeting their educational goals (Matawa Education, 2019c).

Following the renovations and new constructions of the MECC on September 29, 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2023e), students from Neskantaga First Nation are eligible to carry on their secondary and higher education at this improved facility. The MECC now includes following services and facilities to cater to student needs: new student housing, gymnasium, mental health services, recreation opportunities, trades programming, land-based learning, distance and cooperative education, cultural and spiritual programming, evening and weekend activities and educational support, after hours student support such as On-Call Services and Safe Sobering Site, trades and co-operative education, and also spaces such as computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces. The accommodation centre is equipped with 24-hour support, food and recreational services, spiritual and cultural activities, health services, mental health services such as counselling, elder's kitchen, and a hockey rink (Matawa Education, 2021).

A new 8 Plex Teacherage building for Neskantaga First Nation is also currently on the way, to be located on reserve land near the existing community school. On February 09, 2023, the Indigenous Services Canada determined that the project will not cause significant environmental effects and thus tenders were issued subsequently to this decision (Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, 2023a).

5.5.1.2.6 Nibinamik First Nation

The Nibinamik Education Centre offers schooling for Nibinamik First Nation students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. The school is run by the Board of Directors within the Nibinamik Community. Transfer of control of the school to Nibinamik First Nation occurred in 2005 from the province (Education in Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). In 2010, the Keewaytinook Internet High (KiHS) program started being utilized in the community as funding for the high school was cut due to lack of attendance. Students that want to attend high school either must attend KiHS online or leave the community (Education in Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). Students receive support at Nibinamik Education Centre with a teacher and a teaching assistant if they decide to attend high school through KiHS. A report on education in Nibinamik in 2014 outlined that an immersion curriculum has still not been fully developed for the school. In the 2012-2013 school year, there were 82 elementary students enrolled with five classroom teachers, a KiHS teacher, one native language teacher and six teaching assistants (Education in Nibinamik First Nation, 2014). From Junior Kindergarten to Grade one and two the students are fully taught in Oji-Cree language. In Grade three to eight, students are taught in English with only 40 minutes of Oji-Cree language a day. The school schedule allows students to participate in spring and fall hunts (211 Ontario North, Nibinamik, 2023).

Nibinamik Education Centre also provides traditional teachings such as arts and crafts and cooking and preparing of traditional foods. Elders come to the school on Fridays allowing students to learn from community members and to preserve traditional knowledge (Education in Nibinamik First Nation, 2014).

Nibinamik First Nation members can also take part in training and certification courses offered by KKETS (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023).

Nibinamik First Nation students have the opportunity to take part in Matawa's Education and Care Centre's Outdoor Education Program and Matawa Education and Care Centre's Elders Program (Matawa Education, 2019a). The outdoor education program is made up of six Land-based and Outdoor Learning credits and allows students to connect with the land and water. Activities include (but not limited to) trapping, outdoor skills, camping, canoeing, and fishing (Matawa Education, 2019a). Students travel from one Matawa First Nation to another during this program. The Elder's program supports Elder's going into the community to provide support to students with traditional activities such as: smudging, big drum making, hand drum making, drumming, feasts beading, traditional teachings, storytelling, workshops, traditional medicines, hide tanning, hunting trapping (Matawa Education, 2019b).

MECC which had its grand opening following renovations, new construction and relocation to a larger facility on September 29, 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2023e), now includes new student housing, gymnasium, mental health services, recreation opportunities, trades programming, land-based learning, distance and cooperative education, cultural and spiritual programming. The school day comprises of a 11-hour holistic learning environment for students. Nibinamik First Nation students are also eligible for higher education at these facilities, which allows accommodations (Government of Canada, 2023a). The Matawa Learning Centre (now MECC) was developed initially in 2010 as a result of Seven Youth Inquest to allow Matawa youth to learn and grow in a safe environment (Government of Canada, 2023a). The MECC also has following facilities for students: evening and weekend activities and educational support, after hours student support such as On-Call Services and Safe Sobering Site, trades and co-operative education, and also spaces such as the new gymnasium, computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces. The accommodation centre is equipped with 24-hour support, food and recreational services, spiritual and cultural activities, health services, mental health services such as counselling, Elder's kitchen, and a hockey rink (Matawa Education, 2021).

5.5.1.2.7 Weenusk First Nation

Weenusk First Nation has one school on reserve – Ma-Tah-Ha-Mao School which offers schooling from Junior Kindergarten to Grade eight (211 Ontario North, Weenusk, 2023a). The school also offers cultural education for learning traditional skills and teachings as well asCree language training (211 Ontario North, Weenusk – Education, 2023).

In 2019, Omushkego Education Student Success hosted a Cree Language and Culture Teachers Gathering to create culturally relevant curriculum that utilized land based Omushkego culture (Omushkego Mushkegowuk Council, 2021). Omushkego Education Student Success supports the Weenusk First Nation community. The Omushkego Land-Based Camp and Teacher's and Principal's Toolkit was developed from this gathering. This toolkit provides educators with resources to integrate seasonality into their classroom programs. Land based camp activities for children such as spring goose camp activities, summer celebrations, fall or winter moose camp activities and winter fishing camp outline specific activities that can be undertaken during each camp (Omushkego Mushkegowuk Council, 2021). Weenusk First Nation is one of the First Nation communities that comprises the Mushkegowuk Council, so members are eligible for the METS program (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023e).

5.5.2 Regional Study Area

The RSA Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following Education and Training Services and Facilities where information is available within the communities:

- Local schools and educational facilities;
- Training Facilities and Programs; and
- Indigenous focused training and education.

The in-person educational opportunities are generally limited to one to two schools within the fly-in northern Ontario First Nation communities. All First Nation communities, with the exception of Wawakapewin and Ginoogaming First Nation have elementary and middle schools within their communities. Completing high school in-person is limited to a few of the fly-in First Nation communities. If completing high school in-person is not available, students can travel outside of the community or complete high school online with the support of educators within their communities. High school is provided within the regional service centres, such as Greenstone, Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay and Timmins.

Schools within the First Nation communities have Indigenous focused training and education with cultural components. Youth camps are available in some of the communities and these focus on traditional Indigenous cultural components and land-based activities Employment training programs are available online in all communities and some of the Indigenous RSA communities have in person training facilities for employment services.

The Métis Nation of Ontario runs Métis Nation of Ontario-wide education and training programming, which can be implemented in centrally organized events and activities, or locally, at the Métis Nation of Ontario community council level.

The Municipalities, Cities and Towns within the RSA all have elementary, middle and high schools within their communities and students can complete school in the area they are from.

Timmins and Thunder Bay are post secondary hubs with multiple colleges and universities to attend with in person and virtual training centres. Pickle Lake, Sioux Lookout and Greenstone have smaller post-secondary options, including regional campuses of Confederation College.

5.5.2.1 Indigenous Communities

Table 5-83 provides a summary of educational and training facilities as well as services present in the RSA.

Table 5-83: Education and Training Facilities and Services in the Regional Study Area

Community	Education and Training Services and Facilities
Aroland First Nation	Aroland First Nation has one school on-reserve, the Johnny Therriault Memorial School, which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023h). The school serves approximately 100 students (Aroland First Nation Education Authority, 2019). For high school, students are provided bus transportation to Geraldton High School (211 Ontario North, Aroland First Nation, 2023h). Matawa Post Secondary provides financial, academic and tutoring support for students to assist in meeting their educational goals (Matawa Education, 2019c). Aroland First Nation members can also take part in training and certification courses offered by KKETS (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023).
	Aroland First Nation students have the opportunity to take part in Matawa's Education and Care Centre's (MECC) Outdoor Education Program and Matawa's Education and Care Centre's Elders Program (Matawa Education, 2019a). The outdoor education program is made up of 6 land-based and outdoor learning credits and allows students to connect with the land and water. Activities include (but not limited to) trapping, outdoor skills, camping, canoeing, and fishing (Matawa Education, 2019a). Students travel from one Matawa First Nation to another during this program. The Elder's program supports Elder's going into the community to provide support to students with traditional activities such as: smudging, big drum making, hand drum making, drumming, feasts beading, traditional teachings, storytelling, workshops, traditional medicines, hide tanning, hunting and trapping (Matawa Education, 2019b). Upon renovation and construction of new facilities as MECC, students from Aroland First Nation have the choice to house at the accommodations at the new MECC, and also take part in its new programs and facilities such as evening and weekend activities and educational support, after hours student support such as On-Call Services and Safe Sobering Site, trades and co-operative education, and also spaces such as the new gymnasium, computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces (Government of Canada, 2023a, Matawa Education, 2021).
Constance Lake First Nation	Constance Lake First Nation has two schools on reserve. Students can either go to Mamawmatawa Holistic Education Centre which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 12 or Josie Bluff Memorial Christian School which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023m). Mamawmatawa Holistic Education Centre has approximately 200 students and promotes Native cultural and spiritual identity (Constance Lake Education Authority, N.D). Constance Lake Education Authority provides night classes for adults to obtain their Grade 12 diploma, and distance education courses through Contact North and Academic and Career Entrance Program through Northern College (211 Ontario North, Constance Lake First Nation, 2023m). Constance Lake First Nation members can also take part in training and certification courses offered by KKETS (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). Constance Lake First Nation students have the opportunity to take part in Matawa's Education and Care Centre's Outdoor Education Program and Matawa's Education and Care Centre's Elders Program (Matawa Education, 2019a). The outdoor education program is made up of six Land-based and Outdoor Learning credits and allows students to connect with the land and water. Activities include (but not limited to) trapping, outdoor skills, camping, canoeing, and fishing (Matawa Education, 2019a). Students travel from one Matawa First Nation to another during this program. The Elder's program supports Elder's going into the community to provide support to students with traditional activities such as: smudging, big drum making, hand drum making, drumming, feasts beading, traditional teachings, storytelling, workshops, traditional medicines, hide tanning, hunting and trapping (Matawa Education, 2019b). Upon renovation and construction of new facilities as MECC, students from Constance Lake First Nation have the choice to house at the accommodations at the new MECC, and also take part in its new programs and facilities such as evening and weekend activities and educational support, after hours student support such as On-Call Services and Safe Sobering Site, trades and co-operative education, and also spaces such as the new gymnasium, computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces (Government of Canada, 2023a, Matawa Education, 2021).

Community	Education and Training Services and Facilities
Fort Albany First Nation	Fort Albany First Nation has one school on reserve – Peetabeck Academy which offers schooling from (junior kindergarten to Grade 12) (211 Ontario North, Fort Albany First Nation, 2023l). Fort Albany First Nation is one of the First Nation communities that comprises the Mushkegowuk Council and members are eligible for the METS program (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023e). In 2019, Omushkego Education Student Success hosted a Cree Language and Culture Teachers Gathering to create culturally relevant curriculum that utilized land based Omushkego culture (Omushkego, 2021). Omushkego Education Student Success supports Fort Albany First Nation community. The Omushkego Land-Based Camp Activities Teacher's and Principal's Toolkit was developed from this gathering. This toolkit provides educators with resources to integrate seasonality into their classroom programs. Land based camp activities for children such as Spring Goose Camp Activities, Summer Celebrations, Fall or Winter Moose Camp Activities and Winter Fishing Camp, outline specific activities that can be undertaken during each camp (Omushkego, 2021).
Ginoogaming First Nation	Ginoogaming First Nation members go off the reserve to attend school. Elementary students attend school within the municipality of Greenstone (Longlac Ward) at Our Lady of Fatima, Marjorie Mills Public School and Migizi Wazisin Elementary School. Secondary students attend Geraldton Composite High School in the municipality of Greenstone or Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School (Ginoogaming First Nation, ND). Ginoogaming Training Centre promotes language, culture, traditions and history within the Ginoogaming community The centre offers programs in education, health and childcare. Leadership training opportunities for students are also provided at the centre (Mannella, 2022). Matawa Post Secondary provides financial, academic and tutoring support for students to assist in meeting their educational goals (Matawa Education, 2019c). Ginoogaming First Nation members can also take part in training and certification courses offered by KKETS (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). Upon renovation and construction of new facilities as MECC, students from Ginoogaming First Nation have the choice to house at the accommodations at the new MECC, and also take part in its new programs and facilities such as evening and weekend activities and educational support, after hours student support such as On-Call Services and Safe Sobering Site, trades and co-operative education, and also spaces such as the new gymnasium, computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces (Government of Canada, 2023a, Matawa Education, 2021).
Kashechewan First Nation	Kashechewan First Nation has two schools on reserve – St. Andrew's Elementary School which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 6 and Francine J. Wesley Secondary School which offers schooling from Grade 7 – 12 (211 Ontario North, Kashechewan First Nation, 2023l). St. Andrew's Elementary School has 85 staff with 310 students and the school recently moved to a new building, as the elementary school was previously sharing a building with the high school (Hiskoonikun Education Authority, 2020a). Francine J. Wesley Secondary School has 37 staff with 214 registered students (Hiskoonikun Education Authority, 2020b). Kashechewan First Nation is one of the First Nation communities that comprises the Mushkegowuk Council and members are eligible for the METS program (Mushkegowuk Council, 2023e). In 2020, six healing camps in Kashechewan were being built: a traditional cultural camp on Potato Island, a youth gathering site, a spiritual camp, a youth cultural and recreational camp, Young Eagles Trail and a detox treatment and healing camp (Baiguzhiyeva, 2020).
	In 2019, Omushkego Education Student Success hosted a Cree Language and Culture Teachers Gathering to create culturally relevant curriculum that utilized land based Omushkego culture (Omushkego, 2021). Omushkego Education Student Success supports Kashechewan First Nation community. The Omushkego Land-Based Camp Activities, Teacher's and Principal's Toolkit was developed from this gathering. This toolkit provides educators with resources to integrate seasonality into their classroom programs. Land based camp activities for children such as Spring Goose Camp Activities, Summer Celebrations, Fall or Winter Moose Camp Activities and Winter Fishing Camp outline specific activities that can be undertaken during each camp (Omushkego, 2021).

Community	Education and Training Services and Facilities
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	Kingfisher Lake First Nation has one school on reserve – Mary Ann Aganash Memorial (junior kindergarten to Grade 8) (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, 2023h). There is no secondary school within the reserve and students can attend Pelican Falls First Nation High School in Sioux Lookout (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake, 2023h) with the assistance of Northern Nishnawbe Education Centre (NNEC). Wahsa Distance Education provides classroom instruction from Sioux Lookout for students who remain on reserve (211 Ontario North, Kingfisher Lake, 2023). A new elementary school is currently being built in Kingfisher Lake First Nation and construction started in June 2022 and once completed, it will accommodate two additional grades – grade 9 and 10. This school will replace the old school that was constructed in 1971 (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023d). The new school can accommodate 153 students along with a teacherage across the school with four duplexes and two bungalows (Shibogama First Nation, 2023d). Completion date for the school is estimated to be summer 2023. The school will include a fusion of traditional cultural teaching and a classroom setting (Shibogama First Nation, 2023d).
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI)	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation has one school on reserve – Aglace Chapman Education Centre which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 10 (Teach for Canada, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, 2017). The school has approximately 40 staff and 305 students. There are four houses and two apartment complexes for teachers near the school (Teach for Canada, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, 2017). The school includes two indigenous cultural program leaders and two native language teachers (Teach for Canada, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, 2017). The school includes a gym, library, computer room, science lab and indoor and outdoor arena (Teach for Canada, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, 2017).
Long Lake #58 First Nation	Long Lake #58 First Nation has two schools within the reserve – Migizi Wazisin Elementary School which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 and Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School which offers schooling from Grade 9-12). Migizi Wazisin Elementary School has approximately 125 students and Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School has approximately 65 students (Long Lake #58 First Nation, 2023). Schools on reserve include cultural programs for children which includes outdoor education, land-based activities and seasonal camps (Long Lake #58, 2023). There is a teaching lodge that is on school grounds where classes and ceremonies are held through the year. Matawa Post Secondary provides financial, academic and tutoring support for students to assist in meeting their educational goals (Matawa Education, 2019c).
	Long Lake #58 First Nation members can also take part in training and certification courses offered by KKETS (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). Following the grand opening of the MECC subsequent to renovations, new construction and relocation to a larger facility on September 29, 2023 (Matawa First Nations, 2023e), the centre has increase capacity to house students and also provides additional services and facilities (gymnasium, mental health services, recreation opportunities, trades programming, land-based learning, distance and cooperative education, cultural and spiritual programming, computer and science labs, multimedia rooms, traditional spaces and cultural spaces, 24-hour support, food and recreational services, spiritual and cultural activities, health services, mental health services such as counselling, elder's kitchen, and a hockey rink (Matawa Education, 2021). Long Lake #58 First Nation students are eligible for the MECC's improved services and facilities. Long Lake #58 First Nation students have the opportunity to take part in Matawa's Education and Care Centre's Outdoor Education Program and Matawa's Education and Care Centre's Elders Program (Matawa Education, 2019a). The outdoor education program is made up of 6 Land-based and Outdoor Learning credits and allows students to connect with the land and water. Activities include (but not limited to) trapping, outdoor skills, camping, canoeing, and fishing (Matawa Education, 2019a). Students travel from one Matawa First Nation to another during this program. The Elder's program supports Elder's going into the community to provide support to students with traditional activities such as: smudging, big drum making, hand drum making, drumming, feasts beading, traditional teachings, storytelling, workshops, traditional medicines, hide tanning, hunting and trapping (Matawa Education, 2019b).

Community	Education and Training Services and Facilities
Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 2	Métis Nation of Ontario has several education and training programs to support Métis citizens. The K-12 Education initiative provides support to families with youth who are within the K-12 school environment (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023f). The support can include toolkits and resources to parents and teachers that are tailored towards Indigenous children and families (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023g). The Post Secondary Education program helps Métis members access Post Secondary education. This includes scholarships and bursaries, assistance with navigating the transition to post secondary, and tutoring program (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023h). Métis Nation of Ontario has an Early Learning and Child Care Program which provides resources for families to assist with early learning and development. This includes camps, programs and events. A virtual Métis Early Learning Camp is hosted by Métis Nation of Ontario for members between 3-12 years old (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023i). Métis Nation of Ontario hosts an employment program to assist members in training in specific areas and with summer career placements in the private, public and non-profit sector (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023j). This program has services that include career counselling, wage subsidies, employment training, and youth initiatives (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023k). Métis Nation of Ontario has an educational and cultural camp initiative. A variety of seasonal, educational and cultural camps and retreats are hosted by Métis Nation of Ontario and these provide participants an opportunity to learn more about Métis history and culture (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023l). The Métis Languages Initiatives supports the incorporation of Michif language within Ontario and has language resources that can be utilized to learn and develop knowledge of the Michif language (Métis Nation of Ontario, 2023m).
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	Mishkeegogamang First Nation has two schools within the reserve – Missabay Community School which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 and Mile 50 School also known as the Charlie Neekan Memorial School. Charlie Neekan Memorial School is a branch of Missabay Community School which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 (Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, 2010b). Secondary education is available through Northern Nishnawbe Education Council through Wahsa Distance Education Centre. Students can also attend high school off the reserve in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. Missabay Community School was built in 2000 and has 10 classrooms, a library, a gym, and areas for staff. The school has approximately 160 students and has the capacity to have 250 students (Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, 2010b). The school includes multipurpose playing fields and playgrounds. The school closes every Fall for 10 days for a Traditional Break when the hunting season begins (Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, 2010b). The school provides cultural activities and traditional Native teaching as part of the school curriculum (Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, 2010b).
North Caribou Lake First Nation	North Caribou First Nation has one school on-reserve – Native Sena School which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023p). The school provides cultural activities and traditional Oji-Cree language as part of the school curriculum (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023p). Native Sena School has approximately 145 students. Wahsa Distance Education provides classroom instruction from Sioux Lookout for students who remain on reserve (211 Ontario North, North Caribou Lake First Nation, 2023p). A new school is currently under construction and will be able to host up to 500 students (Government of Canada, 2020).
Wapekeka First Nation	Wapekeka First Nation has one school on-reserve – Reverend Eleazear Memorial School which offers schooling from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023k). The school provides cultural activities and has a Anishiniimowin Immersion program (Languages Together) which promotes learning entirely in Oji-Cree during Kindergarten and evolving into a mostly English curriculum by the time students enter Grade 8 (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023k). A new school is currently under construction and expected to be completed in 2023 and will be able to accommodate students from junior kindergarten to Grade 10 (211 Ontario North, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023k). The new school will include a native language and culture room. Secondary education is available through Northern Nishnawbe Education Council through Wahsa Distance Education Centre. Students can also attend high school off the reserve in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay (211 Ontario, Wapekeka First Nation, 2023l).

Community	Education and Training Services and Facilities
Wawakapewin First Nation	Wawakapewin First Nation does not have a school within the reserve and Shibogama Education Department provides assistance to students within Wawakapewin First Nation students, but there is no school on-reserve (Shibogama First Nations Council, 2023e).
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	Wapekeka First Nation has one school on-reserve – John George Martin Memorial School which offers schooling from junior kindergarten – Grade 10 (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023l). John George Martin Memorial School has approximately 175 students (John George Martin Memorial School, ND). The school provides cultural activities and offers Native Language and Native studies as subjects. Cultural and traditional outings are also part of the curriculum (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023l). Secondary education is available through Northern Nishnawbe Education Council through Wahsa Distance Education Centre. Students can also attend high school off the reserve in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay (211 Ontario North, Wunnumin First Nation, 2023l).

5.5.2.2 Municipalities, Cities and Towns

5.5.2.2.1 Township of Pickle Lake

The Township of Pickle Lake has one school – Crolancia Public School (Kindergarten to Grade 12) and is part of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board. As a smaller township, distance education options such as Contact North also allow for further education or retraining and job skill upgrading (Move to NW Ontario, Township of Pickle Lake, 2023).

Seven Generations Education Institute is an Indigenous lead education organization that provides high school, college and university level programming to all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people at Pickle Lake Adult Education Partnership at Crolancia Public School (Seven Generations Education Institute, 2023).

5.5.2.2.2 Municipality of Sioux Lookout

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout has five schools (public, catholic and First Nation-focused schools) within the municipality (Sioux Lookout – Education, 2023). Separate from the grade schools, Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre supports schools with providing specialists to support educators in a variety of areas including but not limited to, language and culture, special education, literacy, numeracy and student retention, nutrition and curriculum information (Kwayaciiwin, 2023).

Confederation College has a regional campus in Sioux Lookout, and they offer continuing education courses and apprenticeship programs and training (Sioux Lookout – Education, 2023). Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord Economic Development Corporation (SLFA EDC) offers training programs in health, mining, hospitality, trades, and apprenticeships (SLFA EDC, 2023). SLFA EDC offer training in person and online and the training may occur in Sioux Lookout (e.g., mobile trades training program), off site at another location or online (SLFA EDC, 2023). The Sioux Lookout Mining Centre of Excellence is supported by SLFA EDC, and participants take place in workshops and programs customized to mining and exploration skills. In April 2022, 227 students participated in this program (Northern Ontario Business Staff, 2022b).

Seven Generations Education Institute is an Indigenous lead education organization that provides high school, college, and university level programming to all Indigenous and non-Indigenous People at the Sioux Lookout Campus (Seven Generations Education Institute, 2023).

5.5.2.2.3 City of Thunder Bay

As the largest City in northern Ontario, Thunder Bay has numerous educational schools and centres. Lakehead District School Board has the largest school board with 24 elementary schools, three secondary schools and a centre for adult studies. Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board has 15 elementary schools, three senior elementary schools and two high schools. Le Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique des Aurores Boréales operates one elementary school and

one high school in the city. There is also one Christian school – Thunder Bay Christian School, for students from Kindergarten to Grade 10 (Thunder Bay – Newcomers Guide, 2019).

Confederation College main campus is in the City of Thunder Bay, and they offer continuing education courses and apprenticeship programs and training (Thunder Bay – Newcomers Guide, 2019).

Lakehead University offers over 57 fields of study for undergraduate programs (Lakehead University, 2023). The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is jointly hosted by Lakehead University and Laurentian University in Sudbury. The Academy of Learning Career College (AOLCC) is a privately owned college that offers diploma and certificate programs within the City of Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay – Newcomers Guide, 2019). Transport Training Centres of Canada has a campus in Thunder Bay for Truck Training (Transport Training Centres of Canada, 2023).

The city also has centres that provide training to people and businesses such as the Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre and Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre (Thunder Bay – Education, 2023).

5.5.2.2.4 Municipality of Greenstone

Greenstone has public, Indigenous, bilingual and Catholic schools throughout the municipality. There are seven public schools and three French immersion schools run by Superior Greenstone District School Board, the Superior North Catholic District School Board and the French Public and French Catholic school boards (Greenstone – Education, Employment and Training, 2023). There are four schools run by First Nations school boards – Long Lake #58 First Nation Education Authority, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek Education Authority and Aroland Education Authority (Greenstone – Education, Employment and Training, 2023).

Confederation College has a regional campus in Greenstone, and they offer continuing education courses and apprenticeship programs and training (Greenstone – Education, Employment and Training, 2023). Centre de Formation Pour Adultes de Greenstone also offers education, and training supports for adults in Greenstone (Greenstone – Education, Employment and Training, 2023).

5.5.2.2.5 City of Timmins

The City of Timmins is served by four school boards – District School Board Ontario Northeast, Northeastern Catholic District School Board, Conseil Scolaire Catholique de District des Grandes Rivières and Conseil Scolaire Public du Nord-Est de L'Ontario and has over 20 elementary and high schools in the area (Timmins – Education, 2023).

There are several post-secondary options in the City of Timmins. Northern College offers a campus to support learners located in Timmins and includes an onsite residence, lab space and classrooms. The Timmins campus also hosts the Integrated Emergency Services Complex where firefighters, police and paramedics take part in hands on scenarios and simulations (Northern College – Timmins Campus, 2023). Algoma University has a partnership with Northern College to obtain a university degree in either a Bachelor of Social Work or Bachelor of Arts in Community Development (Algoma University, 2023). Université de Hearst offers undergraduate programs in French at the Timmins campus (Université de Hearst, 2023). Collège Boréal has a campus in Timmins and offers continuing education, college programs and apprenticeship programs (Collège Boréal, 2023). Transport Training Centres of Canada has a campus in Timmins for Truck Training (Transport Training Centres of Canada, 2023).

In 2022, the Omushkego Six Seasons Youth Program for young people aged 13 to 29 was launched. The aim of this camp is to pass the traditional and cultural land-based teachings to Mushkegowuk Cree youth. The focus for this program is for urban youths within Timmins and the surrounding areas (Rayaroth, 2022). The program involves going out on the land with teaching in ice safety, traditional rabbit snaring, hunting, plant harvesting and fishing (Rayaroth, 2022).

5.6 Emergency and Protective Services

Many fly-in First Nation communities have limited access to Emergency and Protection Services. These services are often not available within the community which must then rely on services such as emergency medical care provided off the reserve. This section describes the existing conditions of emergency and protective services in the LSA and RSA using the following indicators:

- Demand for community emergency and protective services; and
- Supply and capacity of community emergency and protective services.

These indicators were selected to determine emergency and protective services available to each community, and Emergency and Protection Services that are either not available to the community or are only available outside the community. Emergency and protective services include police services, fire services, and emergency medical services. Information was primarily collected through the 211 Ontario North website and municipal/community websites. The locations in the LSA where data were collected include Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation. Data were collected for Indigenous communities in the RSA, including the Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakepewin First Nation, and Wunnumin First Nation. Emergency and Protection Services data in municipalities, cities, and towns within the RSA were also collected, including Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins, Greenstone, and Pickle Lake.

5.6.1 Local Study Area

The LSA Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following emergency and protective services where information is available within the communities:

- Police;
- Fire; and
- Emergency Medical Services.

Police services within the LSA are provided by Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) and are small local detachments. NAPS is the largest First Nations police service in Canada, serving 34 communities in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory which covers two-thirds of Ontario (NAPS, 2023a). NAPS is headquartered in Thunder Bay and divided into three regions – Northeast, Northwest and Central Region (NAPS Detachments, 2023). They currently employ 230 uniformed officers and 40 civilians (NAPS, 2023a). NAPS detachments are typically small, with only a few NAPS constables and often work alone (Edwards, 2018). NAPS officers lack the standard backup available to police officers in other areas given the location of the communities they support (MMIWG, 2019). In 2019, a report completed for MMWIG outlined that 20% of NAPS officers were currently on stress or disability leave (MMIWG, 2019). In 2022, 30 NAPS officers resigned due to officer shortages in the province (NAPS, 2023b). NAPS has an emergency response team (ERT) which in 2023 had seven members – one sergeant and six constables who are strategically located at detachments throughout the NAN communities. The ERT team has additional specialized training and provide assistance during major events (NAPS, 2023b). In 2023, Thunder Bay and NAPS signed a partnership agreement to share resources and information (Ketonen, 2023).

Fire services within the LSA include both volunteer and community fire services and departments. Emergency medical services do not exist within some communities or are limited in nature. If emergency care is required, patients are typically transported by air ambulance to the larger regional service centres.

The existing emergency and protective services that currently exist reflect very basic emergency and protective services within the communities. Where information is available, community input indicates a general need for additional emergency and protective services to address Socio-Economic challenges experienced in communities.

Table 5-84 summarizes information on Emergency and Protective Services in Webequie First Nation and other Indigenous communities within the LSA.

Table 5-84: Description of Emergency and Protective Services in Indigenous Communities within the Local Study Area

First Nation	Emergency Services
Webequie First Nation	**Police:** Nishnawbe Aski Police Services (NAPS) operates a detachment in the community. Webequie has two local constables who are both members of the Webequie First Nation (NorthWest Healthline, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, 2023). **Fire:** Webequie First Nation has outlined that fire services in Webequie are non-existent except for pumps at the water treatment plant (Webequie First Nation, 2019a). There are existing hydrants installed but were noted to not be functioning in 2019 (Webequie First Nation, 2019). The Webequie CCP outlines that there is a fire hall on reserve, but it is currently not in use (SNC-Lavalin, 2021). There is a volunteer fire department within the reserve that focuses on fire prevention and administration of the Ontario Fire Code. The volunteer fire department also issues applicable burn permits and provides education, emergency planning, fire investigation, fire suppression and home safety information (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023d). On October 24, 2023 Matawa First Nations Management received two wildlife rapid attack bush trucks (Matawa First Nations, 2023f) as part of a pilot project under the Emergency Management Assistance Program's (providing funding to First Nations to build resiliency, preparedness and response for emergency management) FireSmart funding stream which supports wildland fire non-structural mitigation and preparedness through skill building of community members (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023b). The trucks are to be located at Webequie First Nation and Eabametoong First Nation (whose locations have facilities to house the trucks), to prepare for challenges with regard to fires on community infrastructure. Members from both First Nations will be trained on operating the trucks (Matawa First Nations, 2023f). **EMS:** Webequie currently has no EMS on reserve, if emergency care is required, an air ambulance is dispatched to Webequie to transport the patient out of the community. Patients are usually transported to a hospital in Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay or Winnipeg (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023b).
Attawapiskat First Nation	**Police:** Attawapiskat First Nation Reserve includes a police station (Five Nations Energy Inc., 2021). Ontario First Nation Policing arrangements are made through the Attawapiskat detachment of Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services, Northeast Region (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023j). In 2004, Attawapiskat had a detachment of 5-6 members (Clairmont, 2006). **Fire:** Attawapiskat has an on-reserve fire department which includes one fire chief, one lieutenant and seven firefighters (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023i). **EMS:** James Bay Ambulance Service is located on-reserve but there are limited hospital services within the community. Weeneebayko Area Health Authority Paramedic Service has a base on reserve (WAHA, 2023). If emergency care is required, patients are airlifted to Moose Factory or Timmins (211 Ontario North, Attawapiskat First Nation, 2023j).
Eabametoong First Nation	**Police:** Eabametoong First Nation opened a new police detachment service building in 2015 which is serviced by NAPS – Central Region. It is designed as a 5-person detachment and includes holding cells, interview rooms and meeting rooms (Murray, 2015). **Fire**: Eabametoong has an on-reserve fire department with a fire hall (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023r). Eabametoong has one fire pumper truck and street fire hydrants that are maintained by Eabametoong First Nation (First Nations Info – Eabametoong, 2023). There is a volunteer fire department that focuses on fire prevention and administration of the Ontario Fire Code. The volunteer fire department also issues applicable burn permits and provides education, emergency planning, fire investigation, fire suppression and home safety information (211 Ontario North, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023r). On October 24, 2023 Matawa First Nations Management received two wildlife rapid attack bush trucks (Matawa First Nations, 2023f) as part of a pilot project under the Emergency Management Assistance Program's (providing funding to First Nations to build resiliency, preparedness and response for emergency management) FireSmart funding stream which supports wildland fire non-structural mitigation and

First Nation	Emergency Services
	preparedness through skill building of community members (Indigenous Services Canada, 2023b). The trucks are to be located at Webequie First Nation and Eabametoong First Nation (whose locations have facilities to house the trucks), to prepare for challenges with regard to fires on community infrastructure. Members from both First Nations will be trained on operating the trucks (Matawa First Nations, 2023f). **EMS:** Eabametoong currently has no EMS on reserve. The on-reserve Kevin S C Sagutcheway Nursing Station and provides emergency services (Northwest Health Line, Eabametoong First Nation, 2023b). If medical transportation is required, the Medical Transportation Program will assist with arranging air transportation (NorthWest Healthline, Medical Transportation Program – Eabametoong, 2023).
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	**Police:** Kasabonika Lake First Nation is serviced by the NAPS – Central Region. Kasabonika Lake First Nation has a NAPS detachment on reserve (Northwest Health Line, 2023c). **Fire:** Fire services available to Kasabonika Lake First Nation are unknown. **EMS:** Kasabonika Lake First Nation currently has no EMS on reserve. Emily Anderson Nursing Station provides health care to Kasabonika Lake First Nation members. If medical transportation is required, the medical transportation program will assist with arranging air transportation out of the community to larger regional health services centres (NorthWest Healthline, Medical Transportation Program – Kasabonika, 2023).
Marten Falls First Nation	**Police:** Marten Falls is serviced by the NAPS – Central Region. Marten Falls has a NAPS detachment on reserve (211 Ontario North, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, 2023a). **Fire:** Marten Falls has a volunteer fire department (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls – Volunteer Fire Department, 2022). The volunteer fire department focuses on fire prevention and administration of the Ontario Fire Code. The volunteer fire department also issues applicable burn permits and provides education, emergency planning, fire investigation, fire suppression and home safety information (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls – Volunteer Fire Department, 2022). **EMS:** Marten Falls currently has no EMS on reserve. Muskeg Thunder Clinic provides health care to Marten Falls members. If medical transportation is required, the medical transportation program will assist with arranging air transportation (211 Ontario North, Marten Falls – Medical Transportation Program, 2022).
Neskantaga First Nation	**Police:** Neskantaga is serviced by the NAPS – Central Region. Neskantaga has a NAPS detachment on reserve (Northwest Health Line, 2023d). **Fire:** Neskantaga has a volunteer fire department (Northwest Health Line, Neskantaga First Nation – Volunteer Fire Department, 2023). The volunteer fire department focuses on fire prevention and administration of the Ontario Fire Code. The volunteer fire department also issues applicable burn permits and provides education, emergency planning, fire investigation, fire suppression and home safety information (NorthWest Health Line, Neskantaga First Nation – Volunteer Fire Department, 2023). **EMS:** Neskantaga currently has no EMS on reserve. Rachael Bessie Sakanee Memorial Health Centre – Health and Social Services provides health care to Neskantaga members (NorthWest Healthline, Medical Transportation Program – Neskantaga, 2023).
Nibinamik First Nation	**Police:** Nibinamik is serviced by the NAPS – Central Region. Nibinamik has a NAPS detachment on reserve (NAPS Detachments, 2023). **Fire:** Nibinamik has a volunteer fire department (211 Ontario North, Nibinamik First Nation, 2023d). The volunteer fire department focuses on fire prevention and administration of the Ontario Fire Code. The volunteer fire department also issues applicable burn permits and provides education, emergency planning, fire investigation, fire suppression and home safety information (211 Ontario North, Nibinamik First Nation, 2023d). **EMS:** Nibinamik currently has no EMS on reserve. Nibinamik has a health centre/nursing station with two full time nurses (211 Ontario North, Nibinamik First Nation, 2023c). If medical transportation is required, the Medical Transportation Program will assist with arranging air transportation to Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay (211 Ontario North, 2023k).
Weenusk First Nation	**Police:** Weenusk has a Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) detachment on reserve which is operated by NAPS – Northwest Region. Weenusk (211 Ontario North, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, 2023b). **Fire:** Weenusk has a volunteer fire department (211 Ontario North, Weenusk First Nation, 2020). The volunteer fire department focuses on fire prevention and administration of the Ontario Fire Code. The volunteer fire department also issues applicable burn permits and provides education, emergency planning, fire investigation, fire suppression and home safety information (211 Ontario North, Weenusk,

First Nation	Emergency Services
	2020). The community is planning on building a fire hall and the community recently received a fire truck (Gemmill, 2023). **EMS:** Weenusk currently has no EMS on reserve. Peawanuck Nursing Station provides community and public health support to members. If medical transportation is required, ambulance services is provided by WAHA Paramedic Service (WAHA, 2023).

5.6.2 Regional Study Area

The RSA Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following Emergency and Protective Services where information is available within the communities:

- Police;
- Fire; and
- Emergency Medical Services.

Communities described in the RSA include both Indigenous communities that are fly-in and also those connected to the provincial highway system, as well as municipalities that provide services to Indigenous communities in northern Ontario due to their relative proximity.

Police services within the RSA are provided by Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, the Anishinabek Police Service (APS) , municipal police services or the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). Fire services within the RSA typically include both volunteer, and community and municipal fire services and departments.

The Indigenous communities in the RSA have similar emergency and protective services compared to the Indigenous communities within the LSA. Other communities described in the RSA are larger regional centres with readily available access to emergency and protective services.

Where information is available, community input indicates a general need for additional emergency and protective services to address Socio-Economic challenges experienced in the Indigenous communities.

5.6.2.1 Indigenous Communities

Police services in the Indigenous communities in RSA are provided by the NAPS, the APS or the OPP (NAPS, 2023a).

The APS is headquartered in Garden River and provides police services via twelve detachments serving 16 communities (APS, 2023). In 2020, APS employed a force of 70 uniformed officers (PSAC, 2020).

5.6.2.2 Municipalities, Cities and Towns

The OPP is the provincial policing service for Ontario, employing 5,800 uniformed officers, 2,600 civilian employees and 600 auxiliary officers, making it one of the largest police forces in North America (OPP, 2023). The OPP patrols all Ontario highways and waterways and provides policing services to any rural communities in Ontario that do not have their own police service, while providing investigative, administrative, and other supports to those communities that do have their own police service (OPP, 2023).

Table 5-85 summarizes information on Emergency and Protective Services in regional municipalities within the RSA.

Table 5-85: Emergency and Protective Services in the Regional Municipalities

Municipality	Emergency and Protective Services
Pickle Lake	**Police:** OPP provides police service to Pickle Lake with a satellite office of the Sioux Lookout detachment (Pickle Lake, OPP, 2023). **Fire:** Pickle Lake has a fire department with a fire hall and training area which includes two fire trucks and an emergency vehicle (Pickle Lake – Fire Department, 2023). **EMS:** Northwest EMS provides emergency medical services for Pickle Lake. There is an ambulance base in Pickle Lake with 2 ambulances (Kenora District – Emergency Medical Services, 2023).
Sioux Lookout	**Police:** The Sioux Lookout OPP detachment provides police service to Sioux Lookout (Sioux Lookout, 2022e). **Fire:** The Sioux Lookout Fire Department is responsible for 24 hours-a-day coverage of an area of 536 square kilometres, which encompasses Alcona to the east, just beyond Ojibway Provincial Park to the south, Hudson to the west and ten kilometres to the north (Sioux Lookout – Fire and Emergency Services, 2023). **EMS:** Northwest EMS provides emergency medical services for Sioux Lookout. There are 9 EMS stations throughout Kenora District with 120 paramedics (Kenora District – Emergency Medical Services, 2023).
Thunder Bay	**Police:** Thunder Bay Police Service provides police service to Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay Police Service, 2023). **Fire:** Thunder Bay Fire Rescue provides fire emergency services from various fire stations throughout the city (Thunder Bay, 2023). **EMS:** Superior North EMS provides emergency medical services for the District of Thunder Bay. There are 19 EMS stations throughout the district with 230 people employed (Superior North EMS, 2023).
Greenstone	**Police:** OPP provides police service to Greenstone (NorthWest Healthline – Greenstone Detachment, 2022). **Fire:** The Greenstone Fire Department provides prevention and protection services from four fire stations, and responds to fire alarms, fires and auto extrication/rescues. The department utilizes Volunteer District Chiefs and has a compliment of approximately 70 Volunteer Officers and Firefighters (Greenstone Fire Department, 2023). **EMS:** Superior North EMS provides emergency medical services for the District of Thunder Bay, which includes Greenstone. There are 19 EMS stations throughout the district with 230 people employed (Superior North EMS, 2023).
Timmins	**Police:** Timmins Police Service provides services to City of Timmins (Timmins Police Service, 2023). **Fire:** The Timmins Fire Department services the City of Timmins and surrounding areas. The fire department is staffed by both career and volunteer fire fighters. There is one primary fire station and six volunteer stations throughout the community (City of Timmins, 2023). **EMS:** Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB) contracts out their EMS in Timmins. Timmins has 3 ambulances, 20 full time and 30 part time staff (CDSSAB, EMS, 2023).

5.7 Community Infrastructure

Community infrastructure, such as electrical power generation and distribution, drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, and communications, are integral to the function and sustainability of communities. To an extent, fly-in First Nation communities in northern Ontario are isolated from broader regional infrastructure, and therefore, require self-sustaining community-based infrastructure systems to sustain basic services. However, many First Nation communities have experienced failures to meet basic needs, especially in terms of drinking water. Overall, the condition of the Community Infrastructure in communities tends to be a source of frustration. For instance, in an interview with a former chief of Webequie First Nation, it was said that all infrastructure in the Webequie First Nation reserve requires upgrades, but they lack the funds to do so (SNC-Lavalin, 2022f).

This section describes community infrastructure, including community roads, electrical power systems, drinking water management systems, wastewater management systems, solid waste management systems, telecommunications systems, and other infrastructure using the following indicators:

- Demand for community services and/or infrastructure; and
- Supply and capacity of community services and/or infrastructure.

These indicators were selected to define community infrastructure that is available in the Attawapiskat First Nation, community infrastructure that is needed, and the condition of the infrastructure (i.e., if infrastructure requires upgrading and/or repair). Information was collected from various websites, including municipal/community websites, service provider websites (e.g., Hydro One), and federal and provincial sources (i.e., Government of Canada, and Government of Ontario). The locations in the LSA where data were collected include Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation. Data were collected for Indigenous communities in the RSA, including the Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakapewin First Nation, and Wunnumin First Nation. Community Infrastructure data in municipalities, cities, and towns within the RSA were also collected, including Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins, Greenstone, and Pickle Lake.

5.7.1 Local Study Area

The LSA Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following available Community Infrastructure where information is available:

- Telecommunication (within Webequie First Nation only);
- Drinking Water;
- Wastewater Plants;
- Electricity Supply; and
- Solid Waste Management.

Existing community infrastructure is limited within the LSA and generally requires minor to significant upgrades to meet health standards. Four communities within the LSA have long-term drinking water advisories. Where information is available, community input indicates an urgent need for upgraded community infrastructure to address Socio-Economic challenges experienced within the communities including boil water advisories and wastewater facilities that meet federal guidelines.

Community infrastructure in Indigenous communities in the LSA have several common elements and challenges primarily due to the northern remote reserve systems in which they operate, as described in the sections that follow.

5.7.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Webequie First Nation prepared a draft On-Reserve Land Use Plan in 2019, through First Nations Land Management federal program (Indigenous Services Canada, 2022), which included a participatory community engagement process to gather input from community members on needs, issues, values, and aspirations for on-reserve land use. **Table 5-86** provides a description of the Webequie community infrastructure and available information on performance gaps, condition, capacity and upgrade projects, based on the On-Reserve Land Use Plan, with updates since the planning process was completed.

On March 05, 2024, Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation became parties to an agreement focused on development of community infrastructure projects to assist with future development opportunities in the area, including the development of all-season roads to the Ring of Fire region. The agreement was signed at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention in Toronto, and the development focus will be on health and training facilities, recreation centres, commercial buildings and labour force development programs to improve the well-being and economy of First Nations communities (King's Printer for Ontario, 2024).

Table 5-86: Description of Community Infrastructure in Webequie

Community Infrastructure	Description of Current System	Performance and Upgrades Planned
Community Roads	There are 14 km of roads in the community. These are either gravel or earth- type roads, which connect the community from the airport in the south, to the point at the north end of the community, creating several large loops. Roads also provide access to the landfill and band storage facilities (Webequie First Nation, 2019).	All roads are in fair condition, but require some granular materials, maintenance, and shaping of roads and shoulders. Installation of culverts would address erosion issues. Future roads on-reserve being considered by the community; further information is provided in **Section 8.2**. A road to the south of Eastwood Island would include potential subdivision roads for future housing. The community is also considering potential bridges both the west and to the east, connecting Eastwood Island to the mainland (Webequie First Nation, 2019).
Electrical Power System	Webequie has a 1-megawatt diesel generating station. The generating station has 3 generators that range from 400 to 1,000 kilowatts (kW). Installed in 2012, the generating station had a capital investment of $17 million (TBT Engineering, 2023). According to Hydro One Remote Communities, the number of electricity customers in 2016 was 187 (Hydro One Remote Communities, 2017).	Up to 2022, Hydro Projected Webequie's number of electricity customers to increase slightly to 211 customers (Hydro One Remote Communities, 2017). With funding from the Investing in Canada Plan, the diesel generating station capacity is being increased to 1.5 megawatts (ISC, 2023).
Drinking Water Management System	**Water intake, storage, treatment and distribution** Webequie's water treatment plant consists of a low-level lift station, two full treatment package units, high lift pumps, a reservoir and the water treatment building (Webequie First Nation, 2019).	Periods of water advisories: ▪ Jun 03, 2003 – Jun 27, 2007 ▪ Apr 02, 2009 – Oct 07, 2010 ▪ Apr 08, 2016 – Apr 24, 2018 (Drinking Water Advisories, 2023)
Wastewater Management System	**Sewage Collection and Treatment** The sewage treatment system consists of two Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) units, a secondary clarifier, ultra-violet disinfection, and a digestor. It is fed by a gravity sewage collection system (Webequie First Nation, 2019). The plant and lift stations were built in 1992; the step system in 1995, and the RBCs installed in 2006 (Webequie First Nation, 2019). The community also has a sewage truck (2005) and a sewage truck garage (Webequie First Nation, 2019).	In general, the sewage treatment system is in fair condition, though requires large maintenance and capital project investments to service current and future community needs (Webequie First Nation, 2019). The RBCs need to be upgraded or replaced approximately by 2031, and two boilers require replacement. The lift stations are in fair condition, with an estimated useful life to approximately 2027 (Webequie First Nation, 2019). The step system requires maintenance to controls and pumps and has an estimated life remaining to 2039. Sanitary mains are in good condition as of 2019. The sewage truck requires some work to the transmission but is maintained and in fair condition. The garage is in good condition (Webequie First Nation, 2019).
Solid Waste Management System	Webequie has two landfill sites; one full, and one recently constructed. The sites offer solid waste disposal and liquid waste disposal (Webequie First Nation, 2019).	The current landfill site is full and has no open trenches. It is in fair condition, but requires a substantial amount of maintenance, including signage and segregation (Webequie First Nation, 2019b). The new site has been constructed but is not yet in use (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

Community Infrastructure	Description of Current System	Performance and Upgrades Planned
Telecommunications System	Internet services are provided via cable network by Webequie Telecommunications. Webequie has two radio stations: C.S.P.N Radio (local station) and Wawatay Radio (via satellite) (Webequie First Nation, 2023c).	Internet service is available but slow (Webequie First Nation, 2019). The Rapid Lynx long-haul fibre-optic network project will bring high-speed internet to Webequie. The project is funded by the province. The second phase of the project was planned to be underway by early 2023 and 57% of the line complete to-date (Daily Commercial News, 2022).

The property manager and former Health Director expects that if the Webequie Supply Road is built, it will result in lower costs to building infrastructure and providing services to members of the community such as better health facilities, water and sanitation facilities and road network (Webequie First Nation, 2022j). The supply road could also have some social benefits where the increased number of infrastructure and services could lead to a lower cost of living, but could also bring more people into the community, which could lead to increased disruption to the community (i.e., crime, drugs, alcohol). The property manager also notes that the community should become more self-reliant and self-sufficient as the community should be able to sustain and maintain infrastructure and provide services for people on reserve. Although the whole infrastructure system needs an upgrade, it is essential that construction happens with proper plans and taking into consideration the requirements of the community (e.g., health and social services building should be at a discreet location) and also the physical properties of the area such as permafrost (which affects construction) (SNC-Lavalin, 2022f).

Future plans for improving services for community well-being and safety within the community includes identifying and maintaining existing conditions and identifying additional infrastructure that may be required (SNC-Lavalin, 2022k). As outlined in the CCP, infrastructure maintenance must be recorded, which includes maintenance date, cost, and predicted costs for future maintenance. Asset management is also a component in the CCP, which includes identifying the existing condition, then anticipating needs for the future. For instance, there is not enough infrastructure for members to meet up and converse and play, especially for both youths and Elders, and as such additional facilities are needed. Funding was planned in 2021 to provide $5.6M in federal and provincial infrastructure investments to improve Covid-19 resilience in community schools, and of which $161,000 in federal and $40,250 in provincial investments were allocated for a new portable classroom in Webequie First Nation (Matawa First Nations, 2021).

Maintaining the water supply in the community is a challenge as the system needs to be upgraded every 10 to 15 years due to changes in the environmental conditions (SNC-Lavalin, 2022g) but there is not enough funding to maintain it (SNC-Lavalin, 2022k). Webequie has a history of boil water advisories, including from June 2003 to June 2007, April 2009 to October 2010 and April 2016 to 2018.

5.7.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Water Infrastructure

In Canada, as of March 2025, there were long-term drinking water advisories affecting 24 communities in Ontario (Buckley, 2025). An article by CBC in February 2021, reiterated the Federal government's commitment to lifting all long-term boil water advisories by March 2021; this deadline was not met. The article specified that the government allocated over three billion dollars to resolve this issue, but implied that more funding is necessary and working with the Indigenous communities and groups is key (Stefanovich et al., 2021).

In the LSA, four communities have long-term drinking water advisories:

- Eabametoong First Nation;
- Neskantaga First Nation;
- Nibinamik First Nation; and
- Marten Falls First Nation.

Of the LSA communities, the longest long term drinking water advisory has been in place since 1995, in Neskantaga First Nation (ISC, 2021). Construction is being finalized on Neskantaga's new water treatment facility, but hurdles still include the lack of trust the community has for the drinking water, and programs and studies are ongoing. This represents a water crisis for the community, causing and exacerbating physical and mental health issues and interrupting many aspects community well-being. The community leadership has continued to plead with governments to fix the problem, and that the issue must be addressed prior to advancing other economic development priorities of industry.

Eabametoong First Nation has been experiencing a boil water advisory since 2001, and work is being carried out to upgrade the community's water treatment plant (ISC, 2021); however, there are concerns regarding the outdated wastewater treatment plant and the potential for the new plant to create sewage overflow (Bensadoun, 2019).

While Attawapiskat First Nation is not currently under a boil water advisory, although the community has historically been plagued with water quality and availability concerns. In 2019, the community faced potentially harmful levels of chemicals in the water, rendering it unusable (Barrera, 2019). On January 30, 2024, a member of Attawapiskat First Nation filed a human rights complaint to the United Nations Human Rights Council over the ongoing issue of lack of access to clean drinking water in the First Nation for decades (Pentictonherald, 2024).

Kasabonika Lake First Nation currently has no boil water advisory, according to the Government of Canada long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserves website.

Marten Falls First Nation has been experiencing a boil water advisory since 2005. A new water treatment system was constructed and completed in March 2019, but a long-term drinking water advisory remains for 91 homes and 6 community buildings (ISC, 2025a).

Nibinamik First Nation has been on a boil water advisory since 2023. Construction of an expansion and upgrades to the community's water treatment system is almost complete (ISC, 2025b)

Other Community Infrastructure

On March 5, 2024, Marten Falls First Nation, along with Webequie First Nation, entered into an agreement aimed at developing community infrastructure projects to support future growth opportunities. This includes the construction of all-season roads to the Ring of Fire region. The agreement was signed at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention in Toronto. The development will focus on health and training facilities, recreation centres, commercial buildings, and labor force development programs to enhance the well-being and economy of First Nations communities (King's Printer for Ontario, 2024).

Funding was planned in 2021 to provide $5.6M in federal and provincial infrastructure investments to improve Covid-19 resilience in community schools, which included Eabametoong First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Nibinamik First Nation (Matawa First Nations, 2021).

Neskantaga First Nation's rehabilitation and expansion of the community centre is currently planned with a federal contribution of $2,242,781 from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The new additions will provide insulation and change rooms and creating an accessible gym by expanding the arena (Government of Canada, 2024).

Table 5-87 summarizes elements of community infrastructure in the other Indigenous communities in the LSA, based on available information.

Table 5-87: Description of Community Infrastructure in Other Indigenous Communities in Local Study Area

Community	Drinking Water	Wastewater	Electricity Supply	Solid Waste Management
Attawapiskat First Nation	▪ Level 3 Water Treatment Facility. ▪ Water Quality: fails health guidelines. ▪ No boil water advisory as of date. ▪ In 2019, community faced potentially harmful levels of chemicals in the water, rendering it unusable (Barrera, 2019).	▪ Level 1 Wastewater System. ▪ Constructed in 2001. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality: meets federal guidelines. ▪ Repairs and upgrades to pumping station (completed), lift station (completed) and lagoon (ongoing).	Connected to grid via Five Nations Energy Corp.	Landfill on/near site.
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	▪ Level 2 water treatment plant. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines. ▪ Water Treatment Plant – Treatment Train Filter Repairs planned. ▪ No boil water advisory as of date.	▪ Level 2 wastewater treatment plant. Constructed in 1993. ▪ Rotating biological contactor. ▪ Effluent Quality does not meet federal guidelines.	▪ Diesel. Served by Hydro One Remotes. ▪ Part of Wataynikaneyap Power Project.	Landfill on/near site.
Marten Falls First Nation	▪ Level 2 Water treatment facility upgraded in 2019. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines. ▪ Boil water advisory in place since July 2005.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater treatment plant, Constructed in 1997. ▪ Facultative Lagoon ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown. ▪ Wastewater Lift Station Repairs and Upgrades completed in 2020.	Diesel generation plant. Served by Hydro One Remotes	Landfill in the reserve area.
Neskantaga First Nation	▪ Level 1 Water treatment facility. New plant was commissioned in Dec 2020. ▪ Water Quality: Unknown. ▪ Boil water advisory in place since Feb 1995.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater treatment plant. ▪ Constructed in 2003. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality: meets federal guidelines.	Diesel generation plant. Served by Hydro One Remotes.	Nearby landfill site.
Nibinamik First Nation	▪ Level 1 water treatment facility. Upgrades to facility in the works. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines. ▪ Boil water advisory in place since Feb 2013.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater treatment plant. ▪ Constructed in 1997. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown. ▪ Rehabilitation of Nibinamik Lagoon Sewage Treatment Lagoon and Collection Systems ongoing.	Band Operated Electrical System.	Nearby landfill site.

Community	Drinking Water	Wastewater	Electricity Supply	Solid Waste Management
Weenusk First Nation	▪ Level 1 Water Treatment Facility originally constructed in 1988. Upgraded in 2018, lifting 12-year advisory. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ Level 1 Peawanuck Wastewater System. ▪ Constructed in 1988. ▪ Facultative lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown. ▪ Sewage Pumping Station Rehabilitation ongoing.	Band Operated Electrical System.	Landfill on/near site.

Sources: Water and Wastewater Information, 2011; Drinking Water Advisories, 2021; Government of Canada, 2019; Hydro One, 2021; Hydro One 2018; Five Nations Energy Inc., 2021; Wataynikaneyap Power, 2021; Government of Ontario, 2021; 211 Ontario North, 2023, Infrastructure Canada, 2010; Government of Canada, 2024.

5.7.2 Regional Study Area

The RSA Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following Community Infrastructure (based on available information):

- Drinking Water;
- Wastewater Plants;
- Electricity Supply; and
- Solid Waste Management.

Existing community infrastructure is limited within the RSA Indigenous communities and generally requires minor to significant upgrades to meet health standards. Four Indigenous communities within the RSA have long-term drinking water advisories. Where information is available, community input indicates an urgent need for upgraded community infrastructure to address Socio-Economic challenges experienced within the communities including boil water advisories and wastewater facilities that meet federal guidelines. The larger regional cities and towns do not have the same Community Infrastructure issues that the RSA Indigenous communities face.

Community Infrastructure in the Indigenous communities within the RSA is described in **Table 5-88**. Drinking water, wastewater treatment, electrical power, and solid waste management systems are described.

Table 5-88: Community Infrastructure in Indigenous Communities in the Regional Study Area

Community	Drinking Water	Wastewater	Electrical Power	Solid Waste
Aroland First Nation	▪ Level 1 Water treatment plant built in 1993. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ Level 1 wastewater system Constructed in 1995. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality: meets federal guidelines.	Hydro One Zone 7 – Nakina Distribution Station	MNR dump site.
Constance Lake First Nation	▪ Level 2 Water treatment facility built in 1986. Updated in 2016 (community website). ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ Level 1 wastewater system. ▪ Constructed in 1997. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown.	Hydro One Zone 6 – Calstock DS	Dumpsite 2.5 miles outside of community (community website).

Community	Drinking Water	Wastewater	Electrical Power	Solid Waste
		▪ Seasonal wastewater lagoon optimization ongoing.		
Eabametoong First Nation	▪ Level 2 Water Treatment System built in 1992 – upgraded recently but insufficient design means a water advisory that started in 2001 is still in effect. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater System. ▪ Constructed in 1995. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality: meets federal guidelines. ▪ Sewage lift station expansion completed in 2019.	Band operated electrical system.	Dump site located approximately 8.5 kilometers from the community.
Fort Albany First Nation	▪ Level 2 Water Treatment System built in 1998. Upgraded in 2021. ▪ Water Quality: fails health guidelines.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater system. ▪ Constructed in 1997. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown.	Connected via transmission line to Moosonee.	Sinclair Island (Southeast Portion) Remediation Site.
Ginoogaming First Nation	▪ Town of Long Lac Water Treatment System – Small System. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ Town of Long Lac. ▪ Municipal Type Agreement.	Connected to Hydro One Zone 7 – Longlac East DS.	Waste disposed in Longlac landfill.
Kashechewan First Nation	▪ Level 3 Water Treatment System built in 1997. ▪ Water Quality: fails health guidelines.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater System. ▪ Constructed in 1997. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown.	Connected via transmission line to Moosonee. Backup diesel generator.	Landfill site on reserve.
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	▪ Level 2 Water Treatment System built in 2008. ▪ Water Quality: meets health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater System. ▪ Constructed in 1996. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown.	▪ Diesel. Served by Hydro One Remotes. ▪ Part of Wataynikaneyap Power Project	Landfill site close to the airport.
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI)	▪ Level 2 Water Treatment System (upgraded in 2022). ▪ Water Quality: meets health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater System. ▪ Constructed in 2002. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown.	▪ Diesel. Served by Hydro One Remotes. ▪ Part of Wataynikaneyap Power Project.	Community garbage dump approximately three miles from the community. (community website).
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	▪ Level 2 Water Treatment System. ▪ Water Quality: fails aesthetic guidelines. ▪ Boil water advisory in place since June 2019.	▪ Small Septic system, for teacherage and nursing facility. ▪ Effluent Quality meets federal guidelines. ▪ New Osnaburgh Water Treatment Plant Upgrades planned.	Part of Wataynikaneyap Power Project.	Landfill site on reserve.

Community	Drinking Water	Wastewater	Electrical Power	Solid Waste
		▪ Backup Power Supply for the 10 Houses Water Treatment Plant completed.		
North Caribou Lake First Nation	▪ Level 3 Water Treatment System. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines. ▪ Boil water advisory in place since March 2020.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater System. ▪ Constructed in 1997. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality does not meet federal guidelines.	▪ Diesel. Served by Hydro One Remotes. ▪ Part of Wataynikaneyap Power Project.	Landfill site on reserve.
Long Lake #58 First Nation	▪ Town of Long Lac Water Treatment System. ▪ Water Quality: meets health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ Town of Long Lac. ▪ Municipal Type Agreement.	Connected to Hydro One Zone 7 – Longlac East DS.	Waste disposed of in Longlac landfill.
Wapekeka First Nation	▪ Level 2 Water Treatment System built in 2000. ▪ Water Quality: fails health and aesthetic guidelines. ▪ Water Treatment Plant disinfection capability study, Backwash Air Scour System, Energy Efficient Lighting Upgrades, and Chlorination System Upgrades planned.	▪ Level 1 Wastewater System. ▪ Constructed in 1990. ▪ Facultative Lagoon. ▪ Effluent Quality Unknown.	▪ Diesel. Served by Hydro One Remotes. ▪ Part of Wataynikaneyap Power Project.	No formal garbage collection; waste disposal at local dump site.
Wawakapewin First Nation	▪ Small System Water Treatment System built in 1998. Construction of new wells and water plant underway. ▪ Water Quality: There is no current drinking water advisory for the community. The long-term drinking water advisory was lifted in March 2022 following investments in new wells and package treatment plant and training.	▪ N/A	The community was connected to the provincial electricity system in September 2023 as part of the Wataynikaneyap Power project.	Wawakapewin First Nation refuse site.
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	▪ Level 2 Water Treatment System built in 2005. ▪ Water Quality: meets health and aesthetic guidelines.	▪ N/A	▪ Band operated electrical system. ▪ Part of Wataynikaneyap Power Project.	Landfill: community disposes of own garbage in landfill.

Sources: Water and Wastewater Information, 2011; Drinking Water Advisories, 2021; Government of Canada, 2019; Hydro One, 2021; Hydro One 2018; Five Nations Energy Ince., 2021; Wataynikaneyap Power, 2021; Government of Ontario, 2021; 211 Ontario North, 2021; Government of Canada, 2024.

Funding was planned in 2021 to provide $5.6M in federal and provincial infrastructure investments to improve Covid-19 resilience in community schools, which included Long Lake #58 First Nation, Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, and Ginoogaming First Nation (Matawa First Nations, 2021).

Kingfisher Lake First Nation is currently planning to renovate and install a new ice plant to the existing arena via funding provided by Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The project focuses on increasing physical health and wellness, improving accessibility for the community, and increasing recreational activities and social cohesion (Government of Canada, 2024).

Table 5-89 provides an overview of the utilities for cities and towns within the LSA and RSA. All regional cities/towns have operating water and wastewater treatment facilities. Hydro One provides electrical energy for most communities within the LSA and RSA including the City of Timmins, the Municipality of Greenstone, and the Town of Pickle Lake. Electrical services for the City of Thunder Bay and the Town of Sioux Lookout are provided by Synergy North and Sioux Lookout Hydro, respectively (City of Thunder Bay, 2023d; Sioux Lookout Hydro, 2018).

Solid waste facilities (i.e., landfills) are available in all cities and towns within the LSA and RSA, but four operated landfills in the Municipality of Greenstone are over or nearing capacity (Municipality of Greenstone, 2022). This includes:

- Geraldton landfill – closed in 2021 at 102% capacity;
- Longlac landfill – 57% capacity (as of September 2020) and began servicing Geraldton in December 2021;
- Nakina landfill – 50% capacity (as of December 2021); and
- Beardmore landfill – over capacity (as of December 2021).

An EA to develop a long-term waste management strategy to manage and dispose of solid waste in the Municipality of Greenstone is currently underway (Municipality of Greenstone, 2022).

Table 5-89: Utilities in the Regional Municipalities

Community	Water	Wastewater	Energy	Solid Waste
Pickle Lake	Deep well source water chlorinated and stored in 220,000-gallon water tower.	Pickle Lake Wastewater Pollution Control Plant.	Hydro One.	Pickle Lake Landfill Site.
Sioux Lookout	Urban Sioux Lookout Water Treatment Plant.	Sioux Lookout Sewage Treatment Plant.	Sioux Lookout Hydro.	Hidden Lake Landfill Site.
Thunder Bay	Bare Point Water Treatment Plant.	Atlantic Avenue Water Pollution Control Plant.	Synergy North (electrical). Enbridge Gas (natural gas).	Thunder Bay Solid Waste & Recycling Facility.
Greenstone	The Municipality owns water treatment facilities in Beardmore, Caramat, Geraldton, Longlac, and Nakina. All of these treatment systems are operated and maintained by Ontario Clean Water Agency.	The Municipality owns wastewater treatment facilities in Beardmore, Caramat, Geraldton, Longlac, and Nakina. All of these treatment systems are operated and maintained by Ontario Clean Water Agency.	Hydro One (electrical). Enbridge Gas (natural gas).	Environmental screening process underway for new landfill site in Beardmore. Landfill in Geraldton is closed but the landfill in Longlac is servicing Geraldton. Longlac and Nakina landfills are operating at 57% and 50% capacity as of September 2020 and December 2021, respectively.

Community	Water	Wastewater	Energy	Solid Waste
Timmins	Timmins Water Filtration Plant.	Mattagami River Wastewater Treatment Plant.	Hydro One (electrical). Enbridge Gas (natural gas).	Several landfill sites and a transfer station.

Source: Sioux Lookout Hydro, 2018; City of Thunder Bay, 2023d.

5.8 Transportation

Transportation and access to goods and services outside of communities is a key consideration for communities in Ontario's far North. The only paved road in the far North is Highway 599 (IBI Group & Hemson Consulting Ltd, 2016). For communities without all-season road access, remote airports operating year-round connect communities to regional hubs in the south and other communities for services, and for the delivery of goods.

In addition, during the coldest weeks of winter with deep freeze conditions, communities use winter roads to connect them to all-season road networks and rail connections. The winter road season tends to be from mid-January to Spring thaw (Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, 2023). Hauling heavy bulk supplies is more cost effective and critical for the communities to maintain supplies of fuel, water, housing materials, food and other goods (IBI Group & Hemson Consulting Ltd, 2016). Living in First Nation communities with no all-season roads has many implications including limited interconnection and high costs associated with travelling and shipping goods by air in the seasons when the winter road is not operational. The shortening of winter road seasons has been a matter of concern for Indigenous communities in northern Ontario in recent years. More snow than usual and warm spells in the winter months disrupt transportation of goods and services over winter roads. Higher average temperatures expected to be the result of climate change have been observed to impact the viability of winter roads and have shortened the winter road season (CBC, 2023a, 2023b). With climate change, the duration of safe lake ice is also projected to decrease. A study has shown that a 1.5ºC (degree Celsius) increase in average temperatures due to climate change can lead to 90% of current ice roads no longer being sustainable (Woolway et al, 2022). A report prepared by the National Research Council Canada in 2023 to review Winter Road Climate Risk and Vulnerability outlined that Canada has one of the largest networks of winter roads in the world (approximately 8,000 km) and that they are highly vulnerable to warming climate (National Research Council Canada, 2023). found that Marten Falls winter road may be more vulnerable to climate change compared to the other 15 routes in the case study as it had a lower. In Ontario, the winter road network has 32 individual operators that connect Indigenous communities to all season roads and is cumulatively 3,160 km in length. The roads are jointly funded by Ontario MNDM and ISC (National Research Council Canada, 2023).

For generations, Indigenous communities have relied on waterways in various ways including for travel to support community life. Waterways are recognized to be vital to the sustainability of communities.

This section describes the transportation options available within the LSA and RSA using the following indicators:

- Road transportation;
- Air transportation; and
- Waterways.

In this section, road transportation examines details on the existing road network (all weather and winter roads) and traffic patterns, including any projections of future traffic patterns, by describing the change in traffic volume (autos, trucks) on existing road connection (winter) to provincial road network, and change in opportunities for travel and road use. Air transportation will describe information on the nearest railways and airports and demands for air and shipping services. These indicators were selected to examine the effects on navigation by the public and Indigenous groups, including activities that obstruct or restrict access to navigable waterways (e.g., portage routes and access roads), and

the effects on safety of navigation routes. Information presented in this section will enable the assessment of Project impacts on existing navigation routes.

5.8.1 Local Study Area

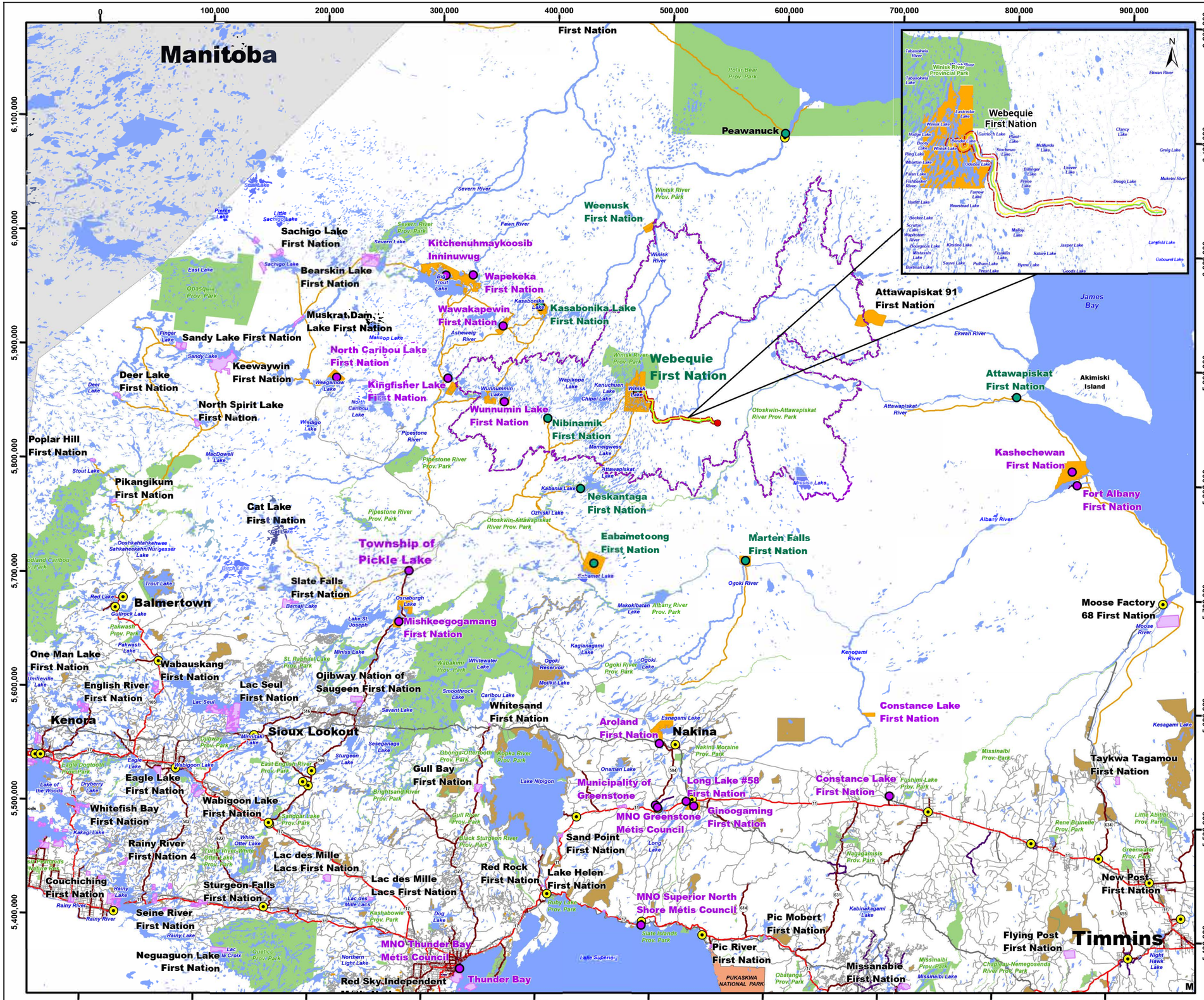
The Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following LSA Transportation information where information is available:

- Winter road corridors;
- Winter road traffic volumes; and
- Waterways.

Communities in the LSA as defined in **Section 2.1** do not currently have all-season road access to the provincial highway system to the south and are currently fly-in or winter road access and the existing local road network is limited. The communities in the LSA use remote airports and winter roads for travel and shipping. Limited information is available on winter roads daily traffic counts within the LSA. Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation have identified the need for all-season roads and are working towards approval for an all-season road. Living in a community with no all-season roads limits access to people living in these communities and the high cost associated with travelling and shipping goods, and high cost of living.

Waterways for transportation is also an integral part of community life. Waterways have been and continue to be an important socio-cultural and economic part of daily life of the LSA Indigenous communities. The waterways connect families and friends along traditional lines and provide an important part of the transportation network for the LSA communities.

Figure 5-92 presents transportation features in the LSA and RSA.



Legend

Route Alternatives

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3 (Preferred Route)
- Socio-Economic Local Study Area
- Socio-Economic Regional Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Local Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Regional Study Area
- First Nation Reserve – Engaged in the Project
- First Nation Reserve
- Waterbody
- Provincial Park
- Conservation Reserve
- Federal National Park
- Arterial Road
- Collector Road
- Expressway / Highway
- Local, Resource, Recreation, and Service Road
- Winter Road
- Rail
- Cities/Towns
- East terminus of the WSR in a proposed future mining development area

Webequie Supply Road (WSR)

Transportation Network

Figure Number:	REV
5.92	PA

Client:	Project Number:	Date:
Webequie First Nation	661910	2/26/2024

DSC	DRN	CHK	APP
	AD	SV	SV

0 20 40 60 Km

WSR WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Ontario MNR Lambert
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Download Date: 2021-02-04

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SIZE: 11 X 17

Path: \\tor01\PROJECTS\E&W\Projects\661910 - Webequie First Nation Supply Rd\40_Execution\45_GIS_Dwgs\MXD\Socioeconomic\661910_WSR_SOC_BL_TransportationNetwork_0001_0003.aprx

5.8.1.1 Winter Road Corridors in the Local Study Area

The LSA communities are First Nations that are connected via winter roads from several points. These connection points and winter road corridors are described in **Table 5-90**.

Table 5-90: Ontario Winter Road Systems and Connected Communities in the Local Study Area

Connected Local Study Area Communities	Connection Point to Provincial Highway / Winter Road Corridor	Winter Road System
Webequie First Nation Nibinamik First Nation Neskantaga First Nation Eabametoong First Nation	Pickle Lake/Webequie Winter Road Corridor	The NORT/Highway 808 is an all-season road that runs north from Pickle Lake and interconnects with the Webequie Winter Road Corridor. The Webequie Winter Road Corridor is one of three winter road systems connecting communities via NORT. The Webequie Winter Road Corridor connects four First Nation communities.
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Pickle Lake/Kingfisher Winter Road Corridor	The NORT/Highway 808 is an all-season road that runs north from Pickle Lake. The Kingfisher Winter Road Corridor is one of three winter road systems connecting communities from the NORT. The Kingfisher Winter Road Corridor connects six First Nation communities.
Marten Falls First Nation	Nakina/Marten Falls corridor	Highway 643 runs through the Nakina and Aroland First Nation, connecting to the MNRF Access Road an all-season road that heads north. The Marten Falls winter road corridor begins at the MNRF Access Road and runs north to the Marten Falls First Nation community.
Attawapiskat First Nation	Moosonee/James Bay corridor	The James Bay Winter Road Corridor runs north from Moose Factory along the James Bay coast to four First Nation communities, and connects to a gravel road in Otter Rapids and to the south via the Wetum winter road
Weenusk First Nation	Shamattawa/Hudson Bay corridor	The Hudson Bay Winter Road Corridor running east from Shamattawa, Manitoba along the coast of Hudson Bay in Ontario, connecting with two First Nation communities.

Source: IBI Group & Hemson Consulting Ltd, 2016.

Table 5-91: Ontario Winter Road Routes – Opening and Closing Days (2020-2022)[20]

Winter Road Routes	Season	Open to light traffic	Number of days	Open to Partial Traffic	Number of days	Open to full traffic	Number of days	Closed
Webequie First Nation	2020-2021	Not available	-	Not available	-	Not available	-	03-28-2021
	2021-2022	02-18-2022	12	03-02-2022	7	03-09-2022	30	04-08-2022
Eabametoong **First Nation**	2020-2021	03-01-2021	2	03-03-2021	-	Not available	-	03-31-2021
	2021-2022	01-24-2022	31	02-24-2022	26	03-22-2022	17	04-08-2022

[20] The data is based on self-reporting by winter road builders from Ontario and may contain gaps

Winter Road Routes	Season	Open to light traffic	Number of days	Open to Partial Traffic	Number of days	Open to full traffic	Number of days	Closed
Neskantaga First Nation	2020-2021	01-11-2021	42	02-22-2021	0	02-22-2021	34	03-28-2021
	2021-2022	12-22-2021	34	01-25-2022	10	02-04-2022	64	04-09-2022
Nibinamik First Nation	2020-2021	01-18-2021	5	01-23-2021	13	02-05-2021	54	03-31-2021
	2021-2022	01-28-2022	0	01-28-2022	8	02-05-2022	54	03-31-2022
Marten Falls First Nation	2020-2021	02-15-2021	0	02-15-2021	12	02-27-2021	31	03-30-2021
	2021-2022	02-15-2022	0	02-15-2022	13	02-28-2022	31	03-31-2022

Source: National Research Council Canada, 2023

5.8.1.2 Winter Road Traffic Volumes in the Local Study Area

Limited information is available on winter roads daily traffic counts. An available study taken from the 2015-2016 winter road season saw the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines install vehicle induction counters on certain winter road corridors, which included the Webequie, Kingfisher and North Caribou Winter Road Corridors (IBI Group & Hemson Consulting Ltd, 2016).

Data obtained from the study indicated daily average traffic ranged from 30 to 70 vehicles per corridor (travelling in either direction), with peak daily traffic as high as approximately 60 to 110 vehicles per corridor (IBI Group & Hemson Consulting Ltd, 2016). Traffic tends to ramp up towards the end of the winter road season, with the highest traffic taking (approximately 300 to 500 vehicles per week per corridor in 2016) occurring approximately mid-February to near the end of the season, (IBI Group & Hemson Consulting Ltd, 2016). Specifically for the Webequie winter road, the daily count measured over a 7-week period ranged from 0 vehicles (towards the end of the season) to 60 vehicles (mid.February).

Peawanuck (Weenusk First Nation) does not have access to a year-round road to southern service centres, but there is a winter road that connects to Fort Severn (Government of Canada, 2021). Traffic volume data is not currently available/not complete. Due to Peawanuck's remote location, most goods and services are available in more densely populated areas that are difficult to access for Weenusk First Nation. The winter road is a partial solution to this problem, but it is only accessible in the winter and requires significant efforts to manage.

5.8.1.3 Waterways in the Local Study Area

A waterway is a route of travel by water. In the Far North of Ontario, waterways hold historic and current importance to communities. Historically, waterways were a primary means of transportation and communication for Indigenous peoples and European settlers (Hutton and Black, 1976). The waterways have been referred to as "highways" historically, as they provide the means to travel vast distances in the Far North, as seen with Anishiniimowin / Anishinabe / Mushkeego way of life (Webequie First Nation, 2023b).

European settlement during the fur trade saw the initial establishment of the Fort Albany post on the James Bay coast, and the first inland post at Henley House approximately 250 km up the Albany River (Hutton and Black, 1976). The Albany River was a significant advantage for the European fur trade as it provided a means to travel to its headwater lakes and across to the English River to the west and Lake Superior watersheds to the south. Eventually historic fur trading posts were established along the major rivers in Ontario's Far North, and they successfully drew in First Nations communities as part of the trade (Hutton and Black, 1976). The Métis as a People became a distinct culture at this time.

Although the establishment of the railway and air transportation systems resulted in reduced reliance on water travel (Hutton and Black, 1976), Indigenous communities remain deeply connected with traditionally used waterways for social, economic and cultural purposes. Waterways also continue to be a focus of recreation and tourism for residents and visitors to the region.

Water is an important aspect of the Webequie community's way of life. The draft CBLUP outlines that water is central to Webequie First Nation's way of life, beliefs, and traditions. It is regarded as a sacred gift from the Creator and is essential for cultural and spiritual well-being. Healthy rivers, lakes, and wetlands support fish and wildlife that sustain the community and provide vital travel routes for traditional practices. Water also plays an important role in personal well-being.

Webequie First Nation has historical and current interest in waterways in the Winisk tertiary watershed (Upper and Middle) which includes Winisk Lake where the Webequie community settlement is located. The Winisk River flows north to Hudson's Bay. The Winisk River has a series of complex maze-like channels that lead to and from other waterbodies (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). To the east, Webequie has an interest in the Upper Ekwan and Lower Attawapiskat tertiary watersheds, which flow east to James Bay (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

Table 5-92 presents secondary watersheds that may be considered as important to First Nations in the LSA based generally on community location within or near secondary watersheds.

Table 5-92: Local Study Area Communities Within or Nearby Secondary Watersheds

Secondary Watershed	Local Study Area Communities
Lower Albany River Watershed	*Attawapiskat First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation* Eabametoong First Nation reserve is situated on Eabamet Lake, which is part of the Albany River watershed. Each spring it the "waters at the narrows reverses flow back into Eabamet Lake" during spring runoff, which gives the name to Eabametoong with "reversing of the water place" (NOSM, n.d.). Marten Falls is located where the Ogoki River and Albany River meet. The Albany River offers "exciting canoeing and white-water rafting" (Teach for Canada, 2018).
Upper Albany River Watershed	*Eabametoong First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation* Flooding of the Albany Rivers occurs ever spring. In April 2025, flooding has caused relocation of community members (Law, S., 2025).
Attawapiskat River	*Attawapiskat First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Webequie First Nation* Neskantaga First Nation is one of the communities located near the headwaters of the Attawapiskat River. Neskantaga First Nation is concerned about the impact of bridges on Lake Sturgeon in the Attawapiskat River, which traverses through their traditional territory (Turner, L., 2022).
Ekwan River – Coast	*Webequie First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, Weenusk First Nation* "There is a particular place which still exists at the mouth of James Bay called Ekwan River. And that's where most of the Omushkegos used to congregate in the spring after the ice breakup. They would create a temporary village where there were so many tipis that, if you stood in the middle of the camp, you would not be able to see the end… And there they also played competitive games… And then there were the mitew [healer] who competed against each other to see who was going to be most fantastic" (Bird, L., 2007).
Winisk River – Coast	*Webequie First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Weenusk First Nation* In 1986, the Winisk River flooded during the spring runoff, which had tragic consequences for the community. Usually, the community would go look at water rising, however in 1986, the community was "terrified because we could see the ice coming towards the town, climbing over the riverbank" (Cram, S., 2016). In 2016, the community remembered the flood that happened 30 years prior which caused them to relocate to higher ground. "Hopefully it will not take another tragedy before other First Nations are given the opportunity to develop safe, healthy, and up-to-date communities. By remembering and honouring the past, we can build a better future together" – Grand Chief Jonathan Soloman (Cram, S., 2016).

Source: Government of Ontario, 2023.

The Albany River runs throughout the Lower Albany River Watershed and the Upper Albany River Watershed and has a 135,000 km^2 drainage basin, which is used by the Anishinaabemowin, Anishnaabe and Mushkegowuk communities for hunting and fishing (Kudelik, 2015).

The Otoskwin-Attawapiskat River Provincial Park, located within the Attawapiskat River secondary watershed, features numerous historical sites which reflect Indigenous history from 3,000 BC to the fur-trading era in the 1800's (Ontario Parks, 2023). The Neskantaga First Nation rely on the watershed as a source of fishing, hunting, trapping, and medicinal plant gathering (Palframan, 2021).

The Winisk River Provincial Park is located within the Winisk River – Coast secondary watershed. The Park has portions of 7 traplines, all of which are operated by the people of Webequie (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2023a). Trapping is only permitted within the park by Status Indians and only Status Indians trappers are permitted to assist other Status Indian trappers.

Attawapiskat First Nation traditional territories are within the secondary watersheds of Lower Albany River Watershed, Attawapiskat River, and Ekwan River – Coastwatersheds (Government of Ontario, 2023).

Neskantaga First Nation traditional territories are within or near the secondary watersheds of Attawapiskat River-Coast, Upper Albany River, Ekwan River-Coast and Winisk River-Coast secondary watersheds (Government of Ontario, 2023). The Neskantaga First Nation rely on parts of some of these watersheds as a source of traditional ceremony, fishing, hunting, trapping, and medicinal plant gathering (Palframan, 2021).

Nibinamik First Station traditional territory is about 8 km south of the Old Summer Beaver village on Nibinamik Lake. The area is within the Winisk River-Coast secondary watershed, encompassing a complex of interconnecting waterways which historically and in present day provide transportation routes to traditional harvesting areas, camps, and ceremonial sites. Kasabonika Lake First Nation traditional territories are within the secondary watersheds of Winisk River – Coast and Severn River (Government of Ontario, 2023). The Kasabonika Lake First Nation homeland is centred on the lakes of Kasabonika and Shibogama with heavy utilization on the lakes and surroundings, and an overall east-west orientation and important connection with Big Trout Lake to the west, as well as connections with Fort Severn, Neskantaga and Wunnumin and Kingfisher Lake.

5.8.2 Regional Study Area

The Socio-Economic Baseline includes a description of the following RSA Transportation where information is available:

- Road Transportation Network;
- Road Traffic Volumes;
- Vehicle Collisions;
- Air Transportation; and
- Waterways.

Communities described in the RSA include both Indigenous communities that are fly-in and also those connected to the provincial highway system, as well as municipalities that have well connected transportation systems. The fly-in First Nation communities in the RSA, experience similar transportation issues to the LSA fly-in communities. Transportation in the RSA has an array of multimodal transportation infrastructure including the rail network, the provincial highway system, other all-season roads, winter roads, and airports (municipal, remote and international) (IBI Group & Hemson Consulting Ltd, 2016). The majority of First Nations communities in the RSA are reachable by remote airports or by winter roads. While other communities in the RSA including Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation and Mishkeegogamang First Nation have communities on reserve located with access to the provincial highway network. Waterways for transportation is also an integral part of

community life. Waterways have been and continue to be an important socio-cultural and economic part of daily life of the RSA Indigenous communities. The waterways connect families and friends along traditional lines and provide an important part of the transportation network for the RSA communities.

The citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario live and utilize the lands and resources in Métis traditional territories and these lands are generally accessible to the provincial highway network.

5.8.2.1 Winter Road Transportation Network in the Regional Study Area

Table 5-93 lists the remote communities that are serviced by the winter road network organized by where the road connects to the provincial highway network.

Table 5-93: Ontario Winter Road Systems and Connected Communities in the Regional Study Area

Connected Regional Study Area Communities	Connection Point to Provincial Highway/ Winter Road Corridor	Winter Road System
Wunnumin First Nation Wawakapewin First Nation Kingfisher Lake First Nation Wapekeka First Nation	Pickle Lake/Kingfisher – Asheweig Winter Road Corridor	The Northern Ontario Resource Trail (NORT) / Highway 808 is an all-season road that runs north from Pickle Lake. The Kingfisher – Asheweig Winter Road corridor is one of three winter road systems connecting communities from the NORT. The Kingfisher – Asheweig Winter Road Corridor connects six First Nation communities (MNDM, 2020).
North Caribou Lake First Nation	Pickle Lake/North Caribou Winter Road Corridor	The NORT / Highway 808 is an all-season road that runs north from Pickle Lake. The North Caribou Winter Road Corridor is one of three winter road systems connecting communities from the NORT. The North Caribou Winter Road Corridor connects with five First Nation communities.
Kashechewan First Nation Fort Albany First Nation	Moosonee/James Bay Winter Road Corridor	The James Bay Winter Road Corridor running north from Moose Factory along the James Bay coast, connects to a gravel road in Otter Rapids to the south via the Wetum winter road.

Source: (MNDM, 2020)

Note: Other communities in the RSA including Constance Lake First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation and the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario are situated along the provincial highway network.

5.8.2.2 Road Traffic Volumes in Regional Study Area

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) is the average 24-hour, two-way traffic period from January 1 to December 31 of a given year (Ontario Ministry of Transportation, 2016). The AADT uses real data obtained from a short-term vehicle length classification study or volume study (two to 21 days of data) of available and is used as an approximation of traffic for an average day. If real data were not available to calculate the AADT, a trended value based on adjacent section AADT and historical AADT data were used. Higher AADT values indicate higher traffic areas and lower values indicate lower traffic areas. **Table 5-94** presents the AADT for roads within the Transportation LSA.

Table 5-94: 2019 AADT Volume in the Regional Study Area

Highway	Location From	Location To	Distance (km)	AADT
Highway 516 – Highway 599 North of Savant Lake to Sioux Lookout				
516	Secondary Highway 599	Vermillion River Road (North)	73.6	210
516	Vermillion River Road (North)	Airport Road (North)	28.1	350
516	Airport Road (North)	Secondary Highway 642 – Highway End	2.0	1,800
Highway 599 – Highway 17 in Ignace to Central Patricia (Highway End)				
599	Highway 17	Secondary Highway 642	59.6	300
599	Secondary Highway 642	Secondary Highway 516 (West) MNR Silvicultural Camp (East)	76.1	200
599	Secondary Highway 516 (West) MNR Silvicultural Camp (East)	Band Administration Office Road (West)	104.7	160
599	Band Administration Office Road (West)	Pickle Lake Road (West)	50.3	470
599	Pickle Lake Road (West)	Central Patricia (Highway End)	0.6	410
Highway 584 – Hardrock Mines to Nakina Airport				
584	Hardrock Mine Entrance (Start of NA*)	1.5 km North of Burroughs Creek Culvert (End of NA)	14.5	
584	1.5 km North of Burroughs Creek Culvert (End of NA)	Secondary Highway 643 (West) to Aroland & Cavell	46.8	300
584	Secondary Highway 643 (West) to Aroland & Cavell	Howard Creek Culvert – Nakina (Highway end)	6.3	420
Highway 643				
643	Secondary Highway 584	Cavell Road, Aroland (Highway End)	19.7	200

* NA (Non-assumed) – indicates roadway is not under provincial jurisdiction; contact the corresponding regional municipality for traffic volume information.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Transportation, 2019.

5.8.2.3 Vehicle Collisions in the Regional Study Area

Vehicle collision data were obtained from the Ministry of Transport's Ontario Road Safety Annual Report (Ontario Ministry of Transportation, 2019). In 2019, a total of 61,193 and 154,989 motor vehicles were registered in the Kenora Region and Thunder Bay Region, respectively, as shown in **Table 5-95**. For both regions, the main class of collision was property damage, and fatalities being rare (less than 1% of all collisions for both regions).

In the Kenora Region, a total of 823 collisions were recorded, which included 759 (92%) incidents that resulted in property damage, 60 (7%) incidents that resulted in personal injury, and 4 (less then 1%) incidents that resulted in a fatality. Provincial highways recorded the most collisions in the Kenora Region, with 396 collisions (48%) recorded.

In the Thunder Bay Region, a total of 3,757 collisions were recorded, which included 3,273 (87%) incidents that resulted in property damage, 469 (12%) incidents that resulted in personal injury, and 15 (less than 1%) incidents that resulted in a fatality. Out of the 3,757 collisions recorded in the Thunder Bay Region, 3,521 (94%) of these collisions were recorded within the City of Thunder Bay (1,938 collisions) and along provincial highways (1,583 collisions).

Table 5-95: Vehicle Collision Data in the Transportation Regional Study Area, 2019

Place of Collision	Total Collisions		Class of Collision			Persons	Motor Vehicle Registrants
	Number of Collisions	Fatal	Personal Injury	Property Damage	Killed	Injured	
Kenora Region							
Dryden (City)	102	0	4	98	0	16	
Kenora (City)	193	1	10	182	1	16	
Red Lake (Municipality)	18	0	1	17	0	1	
Sioux Lookout (Municipality)	41	0	2	39	0	2	
Provincial Highway	396	2	35	359	2	52	
Other Areas	73	1	8	64	1	15	
Kenora Total	**823**	**4**	**60**	**759**	**4**	**90**	**61,193**
Thunder Bay							
Greenstone (Municipality)	18	1	0	17	1	0	
Manitouwadge (Township)	4	0	1	3	0	2	
Marathon (Town)	11	0	2	9	0	3	
Neebing (Municipality)	8	0	1	7	0	1	
Nipigon (Township)	9	0	0	9	0	0	
Oliver Paipoonge (Municipality)	30	0	5	25	0	6	
Shuniah (Municipality)	25	0	0	25	0	0	
Terrace Bay (Township)	4	0	0	4	0	0	
Thunder Bay (City)	1,938	3	267	1,668	3	361	
Provincial Highway	1,583	11	182	1,390	13	244	
Other Areas	127	0	11	116	0	17	
Thunder Bay Total	**3,757**	**15**	**469**	**3,273**	**17**	**634**	**154,989**

Source: Ontario Ministry of Transportation, 2019.

5.8.2.4 Air Transportation Network in Regional Study Area

Table 5-96 provides a list of airlines that offer services to communities in the RSA.

Table 5-96: Ontario Airlines with Services to Remote Communities in the Local Study Area and Regional Study Area

Airline	Base Locations in Ontario	Air services To
Bamaji Air Inc. (Bamaji Air Inc., 2023)	▪ Sioux Lookout Airport	Wawakapewin First Nation – closest airstrip is at Kasabonika Lake First Nation, 37 km from the community
Wasaya Airways Limited Partnership (LP) (Wasaya Airways Limited Partnership, 2023)	▪ Pickle Lake Airport ▪ Red Lake Airport ▪ Sioux Lookout Airport ▪ Thunder Bay Airport (headquarters)	15 Indigenous communities including: ▪ Eabametoong First Nation ▪ Kasabonika Lake First Nation ▪ Kingfisher Lake First Nation ▪ Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation ▪ Marten Falls First Nation ▪ Neskantaga First Nation ▪ Nibinamik First Nation ▪ Wapekeka First Nation ▪ Webequie First Nation ▪ Weenusk First Nation ▪ Wunnumin First Nation
North Star Air (North Star Air, 2023)	▪ Sioux Lookout Airport ▪ Thunder Bay Airport (headquarters)	Over 54 remote Northern communities. ▪ From Sioux Lookout to: ▫ Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation ▫ North Caribou First Nation ▫ Wapekeka First Nation ▪ From Thunder Bay to: ▫ Webequie First Nation ▫ Neskantaga First Nation ▫ Fort Hope First Nation ▫ Marten Falls First Nation
Nakina Air Service (Nakina Outpost Camp, 2023)	▪ Nakina Airport	Various outposts
Leuenberger Air Service (Leuenberger Air Service, 2023)	▪ Nakina Airport	Operates two aircraft rates to all areas surrounding and north of Nakina, specialized in assisting mining projects and aerial surveys.
Thunder Airlines (Thunder Airlines, 2023)	▪ Timmins Airport	▪ City of Timmins ▪ Moosonee First Nation ▪ Fort Albany First Nation ▪ Kashechewan First Nation ▪ Attawapiskat First Nation
SkyCare (SkyCare, 2023)	▪ Sioux Lookout Airport ▪ Thunder Bay Airport ▪ Kitchener Airport	Provides charter services and air ambulance services to the Province of Ontario through a Standing Offer Agreement with a fleet of three planes. Medevac service is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Airline	Base Locations in Ontario	Air services To
Air Creebec (AirCreebec, 2023)	▪ Timmins Airport	▪ Moosonee First Nation ▪ Fort Albany First Nation ▪ Kashechewan First Nation ▪ Attawapiskat First Nation ▪ Peawanuck First Nation

5.8.2.5 Waterways in the Regional Study Area

Table 5-97 presents secondary watersheds that may be considered as important to Indigenous communities in the LSA based generally on community location within or near secondary watersheds.

Table 5-97: Regional Study Area Communities Within or Nearby Secondary Watersheds

Secondary Watershed	Regional Study Area Communities
Lower Albany River Watershed	*Fort Albany First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation* The Lower Albany River is prone to flooding. An "ice dam" forms near the mouth of the river which causes water levels to quickly rise. The ring dyke between this ice dam and the community has "almost overtopped, which would have released a wall of water engulfing the entire community in a matter of minutes" (Hatch, n.d.). In Late April/early May 2025, Fort Albany and Kashechewan First Nations faced significant flooding risks due to rising waters and ice jams in the Albany River and required evacuations of community members (CBC, 2025).
Upper Albany River Watershed	*Fort Albany First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario Region 2* The reserves for Mishkeegogamang First Nation are located at the headwaters of the Albany River. It played a vital role for community members, providing subsistence and a route for trade for the Hudson Bay Company as well. However, since 1901, it has been affected by prospectors' interest in power generation, followed later by hydro-electric pursuits to divert the water from the north (James Bay) to the south (Lac Seul). The absence or lack of consultation have deeply affected Mishkeegogamang First Nation, who have experienced raising water levels, flooding rice beds, timber and graves, lowering water levels that altered the ecosystem, erosion, which have affected their cultural practices of hunting and fishing (Armstrong, J., 2000; Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, 2025).
Osnaburgh – Upper Albany River	*Mishkeegogamang First Nation, Municipality of Sioux Lookout* Refer to above.
Attawapiskat River	*Kashechewan First Nation, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, Township of Pickle Lake* The Attawapiskat River is an ancestral gathering place and regularly floods each spring (The Nation Archives, 1998). Elders have noted that goose hunting is both down and upriver, and the same spot (near the mouth) is used for the Chief's goose camp, and that moose and caribou hunting are located upriver (Hookimaw-Witt, J., 1997).
Kenogami River watershed	*Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario Region 2* Kenogami River drains into James Bay. It provides water generation for Ontario Hydro near Long Lac, which causes an increased water flow to the south towards Lake Superior (OEB, 2014).
Northeastern Lake Superior	*Ginoogaming First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario Region 2* Rivers draining into Lake Superior have an extensive history of diversions due to the changing water levels (Creger, M, 2018).

Secondary Watershed	Regional Study Area Communities
Northwestern Lake Superior	*City of Thunder Bay, Métis Nation of Ontario Region 2, Municipality of Greenstone*
Severn River watershed	*Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakapewin First Nation* The Severn River is a sacred ancestral waterway, central to sovereignty, cultural identity, and environmental stewardship. First Nations communities along the Severn River focus on reaffirming traditional land rights and resist industrial encroachment and emphasizing the river's enduring role in sustaining both community and ecosystem (Mihell, C, 2013). The Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug have issued a water declaration: all waters that flow into and out of Big Trout Lake and all lands, whose waters flow into the lake, rivers and wetlands, to be completely, protected through our continued care under KI's authority, laws and protocols. No industrial uses, or other uses which disrupt, poison, or otherwise harm our relationship to these lands and waters will be permitted. At all times the use of KI lands and waters, and any related decision-making, will be subject to KI's free, prior, and informed consent following KI laws and processes" (Wildlands League, 2013a).
Winisk River – Coast	*Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Wawakapewin First Nation, Wunnumin Lake First Nation* Winisk River is an ancient 'highway' and holds cultural significance to harvesting areas, and social connections to neighbouring First Nations communities (Webequie First Nation, 2019a). Winisk River was included in a study to determine the "waterpower potential" to supply power to remote communities in northern Ontario and the Ring of Fire (Hatch, 2014). In 2025,

Source: Government of Ontario, 2023.

The people of Constance Lake First Nation have made use of the Kenogami River watershed as part of their territory for many years (Constance Lake First Nation, 2023). The watershed holds several waterbodies (lakes, rivers, creeks) which members of the Constance Lake First Nation use in their daily lives as a historical connection to their traditional land. The watershed also features several sensitive areas identified through Indigenous Traditional Knowledge research and archaeological records, including (but not limited to) burial sites, historical camps, hunting sites, settlement locations, and culturally modified trees (Constance Lake First Nation, 2023).

The Severn River Conservation Reserve is located within the Severn River watershed and contains several important core natural heritage areas that are inventoried and protected by the Ministry of Natural Resources as Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) (Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2023b). The Severn River watershed also holds cultural importance for First Nation communities, such as the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation who use the historic canoe routes within the watershed and the lakes and rivers for fishing (Wildlands League, 2013).

5.9 Community Well-Being and Safety

Community well-being and safety are critical factors in identifying the condition of First Nation communities. Despite improvements in community well-being over the last 35 years, the Socio-Economic gap between First Nation communities and non-Indigenous remains (Statistics Canada, 2019b). Safety is a principal concern among First Nation communities due to historical and intergenerational trauma persisting throughout Canada, and many First Nation members experience racism as a result (Perrault, 2022). The socio-economic baseline provides information that will enable the assessment of effects on community well-being and safety.

This section describes the existing conditions of community well-being and safety in the LSA and RSA using the following indicators:

- Social cohesion and culture;
- Participation in social and/or cultural events;

- Safety; and
- Nuisance.

Social cohesion and culture are described by the quantity and quality of social interactions within communities. Indicators to measure social cohesion can include: crime rates, substance use and how these compare to other Indigenous groups in the area/ regional/ provincial/ territorial averages, and information on Indigenous women's safety and rates of gender-based violence. Participation in social and/or cultural events is described by participation rate (by event), number of new (first-time) attendees to regularly held (e.g., annual) events, and total number of social and/or cultural events held. Safety is described by the community's perception of overall safety within the community, traffic safety, domestic violence rates, sexual assault rates, and physical assault rates. Nuisance is described by air quality (e.g., dust) and noise levels. Information on these indicators was collected from Statistics Canada, Indigenous consultation and traditional knowledge, stakeholder engagement, business operators, and other public sources.

The locations in the LSA where data were collected include Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation. The locations in the RSA where data were collected include the Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District. Information concerning certain topics, such as Indigenous women's safety and gender-based violence, could not be obtained for most communities as no data were collected for smaller communities; information on these topics was mostly collected for Webequie First Nation through key informant interviews and surveys. The information presented in this section will help identify vulnerable groups (e.g., women, disable persons, Elders and youth), safety concerns within communities, and how communities within the LSA and RSA anticipate the Project will affect their safety.

5.9.1 Community Well-Being

One comparative measure of community well-being is the Community Well-Being (CWB) Index. The CWB uses four key Socio-Economic factors (education, income, labour and housing) to measure the well-being of communities across Canada and throughout time. For each community, a score is calculated for each of the four Socio-Economic factors, as well as an overall well-being score based on a combination of all these factors, which is used to compare well-being among Indigenous communities, and between Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous communities. The data presented in this section are provided by the 2016 Census of Population data (most recent dataset) (Statistics Canada, 2017a). It is important to note that "well-being" means different things to different people and the scores from the CWB are only one aspect in determining the well-being of a community. The four factors used to score the CWB are used as they are important topics that are part of people's overall "well-being."

The four socio economic factors used in the scoring of the CWB:

- Education – based on how many community members have at least a high school education and how many have acquired a university degree;
- Labour Force Activity – measures how many community members participate in the labour force and how many labour force participants have jobs;
- Income – calculated based on a community's total income per capita; and
- Housing – based on the number of community members whose homes are in an adequate state of repair and are not overcrowded.

From an Inninuwuk perspective, community well-being is also considered within the context of Mino-Bimaadziwin, which translates to the 'Good Life'. There are many ways to achieve Mino Bimaadziwin including social, economic, cultural vibrancy and physical well-being which looks far into the future, while considering the past, on both individual and collective levels which includes the environment. The Webequie First Nation CCP includes indicators to measure

competency across a number of areas, including: Education and Training; Cultural Vibrancy/Traditional Life, Language retention; Housing and Infrastructure; Environmental Quality/Relationship with the Land, Community Health and Wellness; Family and Social Conditions; Economic Development; Community Leadership and Governance.

Those items are measured through a variety of ways, including graduation rates; housing inventory, waiting list and overcrowding in homes, diversity of homes; local healthcare and social statistics, addictions program numbers, participation in On-Land Healing Initiatives; Employment, self-employment and Ontario Works rates; updated Band policies, frequency of Band communications.

5.9.1.1 Local Study Area

The Socio-Economic Baseline includes a review of the CWB scores for the LSA communities.

Table 5-98 presents a summary of the overall CWB scores and individual scores for each of the four socio-economic factors for all First Nation communities within the LSA, as well as the average overall score for First Nations in Ontario and Canada. The scores range from 1 to 100, with higher scores indicating better wellbeing. The overall CWB score for all First Nations in Canada is 58, while the First Nations in Ontario value is 59. The First Nations communities in the LSA range between 36 (Mishkeegogamang First Nation) and 61 (Weenusk First Nation). In comparison, the municipalities in the RSA have CWB scores ranging between 75 and 80. Since the CWB approach is based on community-level data, well-being scores are not calculated for the Métis population (Indigenous Services Canada, 2019a). In general, according to previous census data, socio-economic indicators such as school attendance, post-secondary completion, employment, and income levels for the Métis population lag behind non-Indigenous populations.

Overall CWB scores as well as the individual criteria scores for the First Nation communities within the LSA are generally lower than the overall score for First Nations in Canada and Ontario with the exception of Weenusk First Nation.

The CWB Scores reflect the significant socio-economic barriers that the LSA communities face. Where information is available, community input indicates further solutions are required to address community-specific needs associated with the indicators listed above.

The data indicate that First Nations communities face unique challenges when it comes to all CWB criteria. Community-based solutions with support from all levels of government would be required to address these challenges. To improve income and labour outcomes for First Nations communities, more opportunities need to be created for economic development.

Table 5-98: CWB Index Scores for Indigenous Communities in the LSA

Community	Overall	Education	Labour	Income	Housing
First Nations in Canada	58	40	69	54	71
First Nations in Ontario	59	38	72	53	70
Webequie First Nation	45	19	73	45	44
Attawapiskat First Nation	48	24	64	52	52
Eabametoong First Nation	44	15	69	42	52
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	46	17	64	47	57
Marten Falls First Nation	50	22	70	47	59
Neskantaga First Nation	49	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nibinamik First Nation	46	14	75	47	48
Weenusk First Nation	61	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

5.9.1.1.1 Webequie First Nation

A Webequie First Nation Community Well-Being Study was completed in June 2014. Community members were invited to participate in multi-day discussions and data collection events in the community, with meals provided. A total of 96 household surveys were completed in April 2014, which represented 66% of the 145 on-reserve private dwellings in Webequie (Statistics Canada, 2021a).

A summary of the seven well-being indicators assessed in the study is presented in **Table 5-99**. This includes:

- Community health;
- Environmental quality and relationships with the land;
- Cultural vibrancy and traditional practices;
- Family and social conditions;
- Economic development;
- Housing and infrastructure; and
- Community leadership governance.

Table 5-99: Summary of Webequie First Nation Community Well-Being Study

Well-Being Indicator	Component	Summary
Community Health	Physical Health and Exercise	▪ One or more members from 64% of households diagnosed with diabetes, obesity, or heart disease. ▪ One or more members from 90% of households participate in light exercise (e.g., walking, gathering wood, casual sports). ▪ One or more members from 60% of households participate in strenuous exercise (e.g., running, canoeing, fast-paced sports). ▪ 63% of households required out-of-town medical treatment for at least one member, between 2013 and 2014. Almost half of these medical trips (49%) included members that needed to be sent out four or more times.
	Diet and Food Security	▪ 90% of households are unable to afford healthy balanced meals. ▪ 94% of households were affected by some form of food insecurity (i.e., did not have enough food, skipped meals, or reduced portion sizes). ▪ 10% of households do not typically consume country foods (e.g., local fish and game meat, berries, and other traditionally harvested items). ▪ Only 45% of households include traditional food items in their meals two or more times a week.
Environmental Quality and Relationships with the Land	Drinking Water Quality	▪ 27% of households had fair to poor drinking water quality, 47% had good quality, and 26% had excellent quality.
	Game Species	▪ 26% of households reported encountering abnormalities in harvested wildlife (e.g., bumps or lesions on fish). ▪ The Webequie community has expressed interest for a study on the quality and quantity of game species harvested each year to be conducted with local harvesters.
Cultural Vibrancy and Traditional Practices	Language	▪ In 19% of households, Oji-Cree is spoken in some or none of their everyday conversations, while in 81% of households, it is spoken in half or more of their daily conversations.76% of households have had at least one member improve their Oji-Cree proficiency within the last year.
	Traditional Activities (Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Gathering)	▪ Trapping was practiced the least (40% of households). ▪ Fishing was practiced the most (over 80% of households).

Well-Being Indicator	Component	Summary
	Traditional Land Use	▪ 70% of households had at least one adult member spending four or more consecutive days on traditional land within the last year. 48% of these households spent a total of 14 or more days. ▪ 40% of households had youth and children spending four or more consecutive days on traditional land. 20% of these households had youth and children spend a total of 14 or more days on traditional land.
	Traditional Knowledge	▪ 61% of households had one household adult teach traditional knowledge or skills to their children. ▪ 78% of households reported that at least one member learned or improved a traditional skill.
Family and Social Conditions	Inter-Household Helping and Sharing	▪ Over 60% of households sometimes or regularly share food, wood, or help others. Sharing food between households was the most common practice.
	Community Activities and Events	▪ Over 75% of households participate in community sports, community events, or charity events. Community events were the most attended of the three types of community activities (over 90% of households attend community events).
	Cultural Activities	▪ Approximately 95% of households had at least one member participate in cultural activities (pow-wows, dancing, sport events, other culture-focus events) three or more times per year.
	Community Safety and Trust	▪ 71% of households with children under the age of 12 often or sometimes allow their children to play outside unsupervised (21% often and 60% sometimes). ▪ 27% of households had their houses vandalized in the past year. 75% of households that were victims of vandalism reported that it only occurred once.
Economic Development	Education	▪ Community views members leaving for university with the intent to return upon graduation aligns with community values. ▪ However, youths leaving the community to attend education programs that are not in the community is seen as an issue. ▪ 17% of households had one member attending school outside of the community; no households had more than one person attending school outside the community. ▪ Over 60% of households have at least one member that has completed high school or adult education equivalent. ▪ 23% of households have at least one member with a college or university degree. ▪ Only 19% of households do not have any members with some form of formal education.
	Economic Independence	▪ Community members emphasize economic independence over economic development. ▪ More households have one or more members working full-time than part-time (64% full-time versus 42% part-time). ▪ Public service work (e.g., band office) is the most prominent work employer in the community as over 30% of households have a member working in this field. ▪ Other jobs include locally owned businesses (17% of households), Aboriginal-owned businesses (9%), and mining (8%).

Well-Being Indicator	Component	Summary
Housing and Infrastructure	Concerns	▪ Community expressed a need for mould-proof homes, homes with six or more bedrooms, funds for repairs. ▪ Average homes have 4 to 5 rooms (inclusive of kitchens and common rooms) with 4 to 5 people living in them. On average, this means that homes with more than the average number of household members are experiencing overcrowding issues. ▪ 82% of homes in the community are in need of repair. Repairs include replacing missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles; broken steps; railings; siding; defective plumbing or electrical wiring; and structural problems with the walls, floors, and ceilings. ▪ Utility bills are a considerable financial challenge for many households (83% and 90% of households have financial difficulty paying electricity and fuel (wood), respectively).
Community Leadership and Governance	Community Governance	▪ Community governance includes attending community meetings; accessing information on Chief and Council decisions and initiatives; becoming aware of community reports; and participating on community committees. ▪ 95% of respondents had at least one or more household members engage in some form of community governance.

Source: Webequie First Nation, 2014.

Based on an interview held with an esteemed Elder in the community, it was noted that young members of the community experienced many challenges with living on reserve (Webequie First Nation, 2022h). One of the challenges is a lack of aid and assistance programs for issues such as substance abuse, depression and mental wellbeing that are accessible for youths due to a lack of funding, The community is currently looking for ways to help the youth through new funding opportunities.

Mental and physical wellbeing as well as drugs and alcohol addiction were also mentioned by the Health Director. Although these issues are prevalent, Webequie First Nation hosts events for the community in the summer, which includes sporting tournaments such as floor hockey and broomball; special events such as talent shows, games, youth weeks; and cultural events such as pow-wows, drum groups, ribbon-making, wild game and fish cooking (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b). The inconsistency of these programs, as it is for building trust and companionship within the community, and the need for it to be a service that should be offered throughout the year was noted by the councillor. Cultural activities that could be implemented if services were more consistent include taking youth out on the land, sightseeing, and visiting special sites where significant events have occurred, and sharing of Indigenous knowledge by Elders and other senior members of the community (SNC-Lavalin, 2022c). Health resources, such as trauma-informed practices, along with counselling services and qualified counsellors are also needed in the community on a regular basis (SNC-Lavalin, 2022h).

The Choose Life Program is a program developed by the Nishnawbe Aski Nation to verify that no First Nation community would be denied funding for programs that promote mental, emotional, and behavioural well-being for youths (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, 2023). The program also provides immediate funding relief for youth at risk of suicide. According to an interview with the councillor, the program is well received by youth in the community, particularly due to how the program is handled and the method of presenting the program to the youth (SNC-Lavalin, 2022c). The program also promotes the learning of local culture and activities for youth (SNC-Lavalin, 2022k).

Due to the remote nature of the community, youths feel isolated from the world outside of Webequie, which can result in them turning towards alcohol and drugs. The feeling of isolation may be a result of a lack of infrastructure and access to the land; and the high cost of transportation due to the special equipment that is required to travel around, such as a watercraft or snowmobile. There are programs and people that help with alcohol and drug prevention, such as drug

abuse social workers (SNC-Lavalin, 2022c). However, alcohol and drug related problems are viewed as a stigma, so the community needs to be able to trust the social workers in order to initiate the rehabilitation (SNC-Lavalin, 2022g).

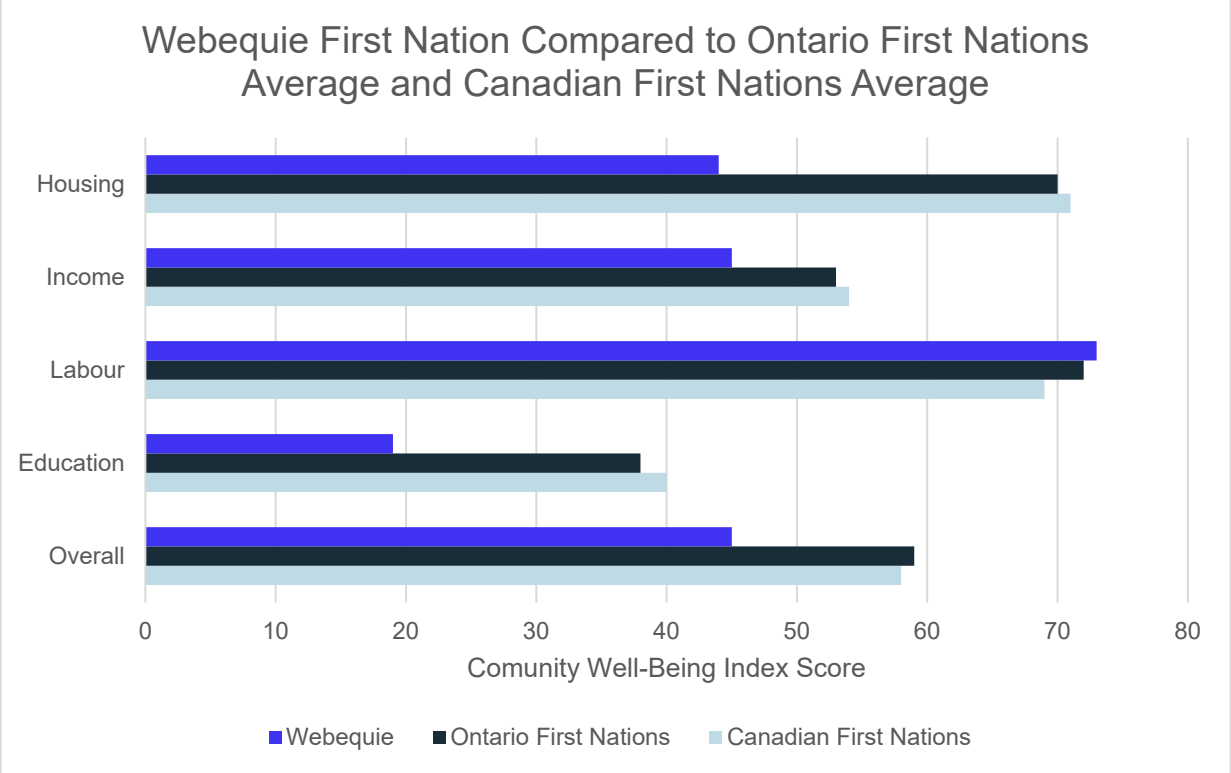
Trauma is another major concern within the community, particularly historical trauma associated with colonization, and subsequent drug abuse and addictions that have been taken on as coping mechanisms for the stress associated with the trauma (SNC-Lavalin, 2022k). Some members of the community have attended residential schools and the trauma that they experienced continues to impact their personal and family life, creating stress while performing daily tasks such as raising children. Because most of the trauma of the community is unresolved, members accumulate stress throughout their life and sometimes resort to some substances to cope with it. Addictions in the community include gambling, gaming (in the case of children), alcohol, and drugs. The community has a suboxone program that helps people with opioid addiction, and potential solutions for addressing trauma within the community include land-based healing and youth training (SNC-Lavalin, 2022e). Two-spirited and other LGBTQ+ groups in the community are disproportionately affected by this trauma due to a lack of understanding of gender identity topics and this is especially difficult to address because there are not many social services that help with these types of issues. The period when members attended residential schools also had cultural impacts, as there was a loss in identity, parenting skills and knowledge (SNC-Lavalin, 2022f).

Better addressing these social and health issues plus issues that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic are being viewed by members of the community as an opportunity to improve the community well-being (SNC-Lavalin, 2022l). According to the Chief, because the community has a small population, any issues faced by individuals are experienced by the whole community. Due to the poor quality of life, poverty, high cost of living, and impoverished living conditions, many members of the community are not focused on the future and are more focused on surviving each day (SNC-Lavalin, 2022f).

The Women's Group conducts workshops with women in various age groups (e.g., 45-55, 55-65, and 65+), to aid the women with mental health problems, learning language and developing oneself a First Nations person, and learning how to develop and keep strong self identity and values (SNC-Lavalin, 2022f). Women in the community face several barriers to accessing services, lands, and resources, including trust issues, childcare (especially for single parents/grandparents), language barriers, nepotism, transportation, long waitlists for medical services, inactive aftercare program and follow-up services, lack of privacy while receiving counselling, lack of support from families, and lack of communication (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

Based on the Webequie First Nation's Community Well Being Index (CWB) scores three out of the four Socio-Economic factors (housing, income, and education) are lower than the average CWB scores for both the First Nations in Ontario and the First Nations in Canada , as shown on **Figure 5-93**. The difference between Webequie First Nation and the Ontario and Canadian First Nations average CWB scores is greatest in housing, where Webequie First Nation has a score of 44 while the Ontario and Canadian First Nations averages are 70 and 71, respectively (26-27point difference). Labour is the only Socio-Economic factor where Webequie First Nation's score (73) is higher than both the First Nations in Ontario average (72) and the Canadian First Nations average (69).

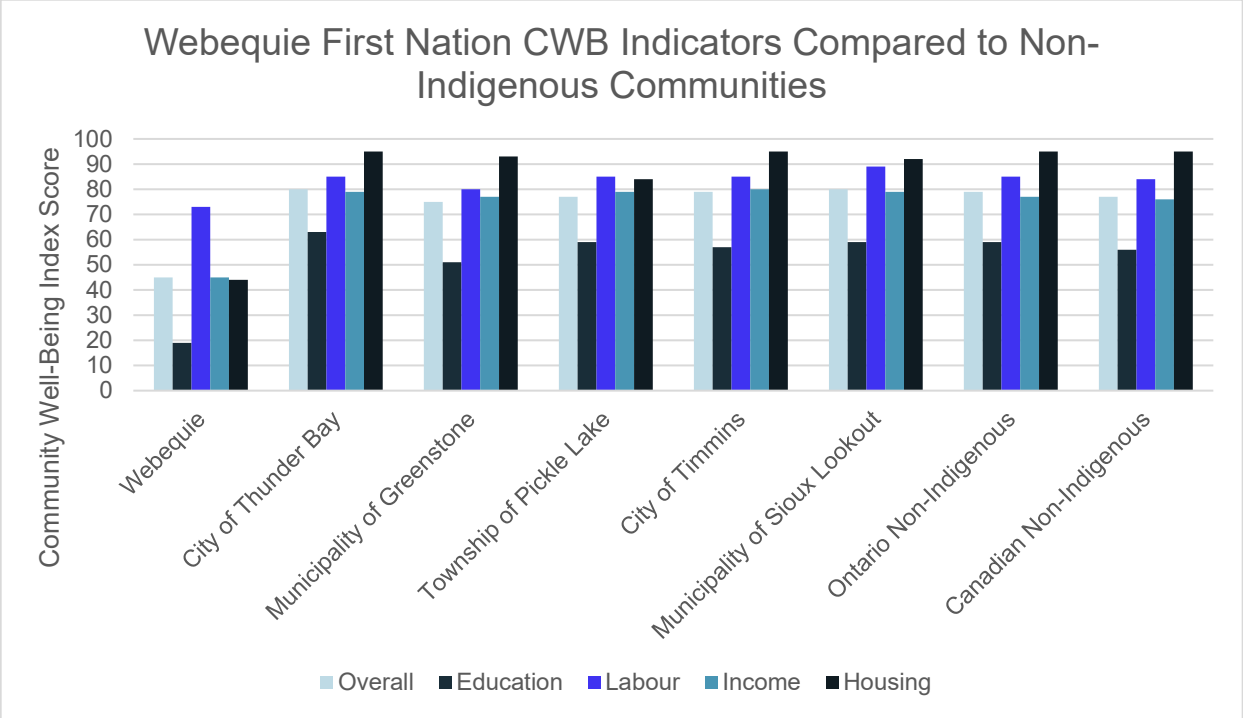
Figure 5-93: CWB Index Score for Webequie First Nation Compared to the First Nations in Ontario Average and First Nations Average in Canada



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

Webequie First Nation also has lower CWB scores for all four Socio-Economic factors than non-Indigenous communities, as well as Ontario First Nations and Canadian non-Indigenous communities. The overall CWB score for Webequie First Nation is also lower than the score for non-Indigenous communities as shown on **Figure 5-94**. The greatest difference in scores between Webequie First Nation and non-Indigenous communities is in housing; Webequie First Nation has a CWB score of 44, while the lowest non-Indigenous community score is the Township of Pickle Lake, with a score of 84 (40-point difference). Webequie First Nation's CWB score for labour (73), although lower than non-Indigenous communities, is the most comparable as the lowest non-Indigenous community score is the Municipality of Greenstone with a score of 80 (7 score difference).

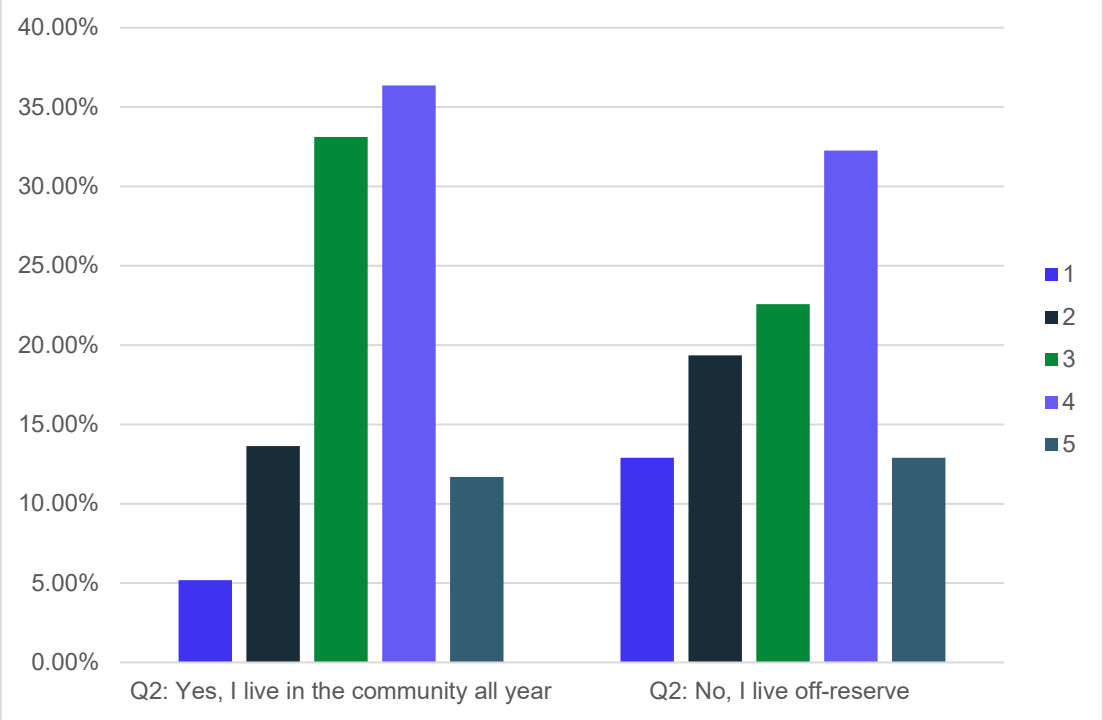
Figure 5-94: CWB Index Score for Webequie First Nation Compared to Non-Indigenous Communities



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

Also the results of an online survey conducted by SNC-Lavalin in 2022 (across the community members who live on-reserve and off-reserve) on the CWB Index indicators including the quality and quantity of social connections in Webequie First Nation Community is presented in below **Figure 5-95** to **5-97**. Seventy-five percent of respondents live in Webequie First Nation reserve year-round and 17% live off-reserve in Thunder Bay.

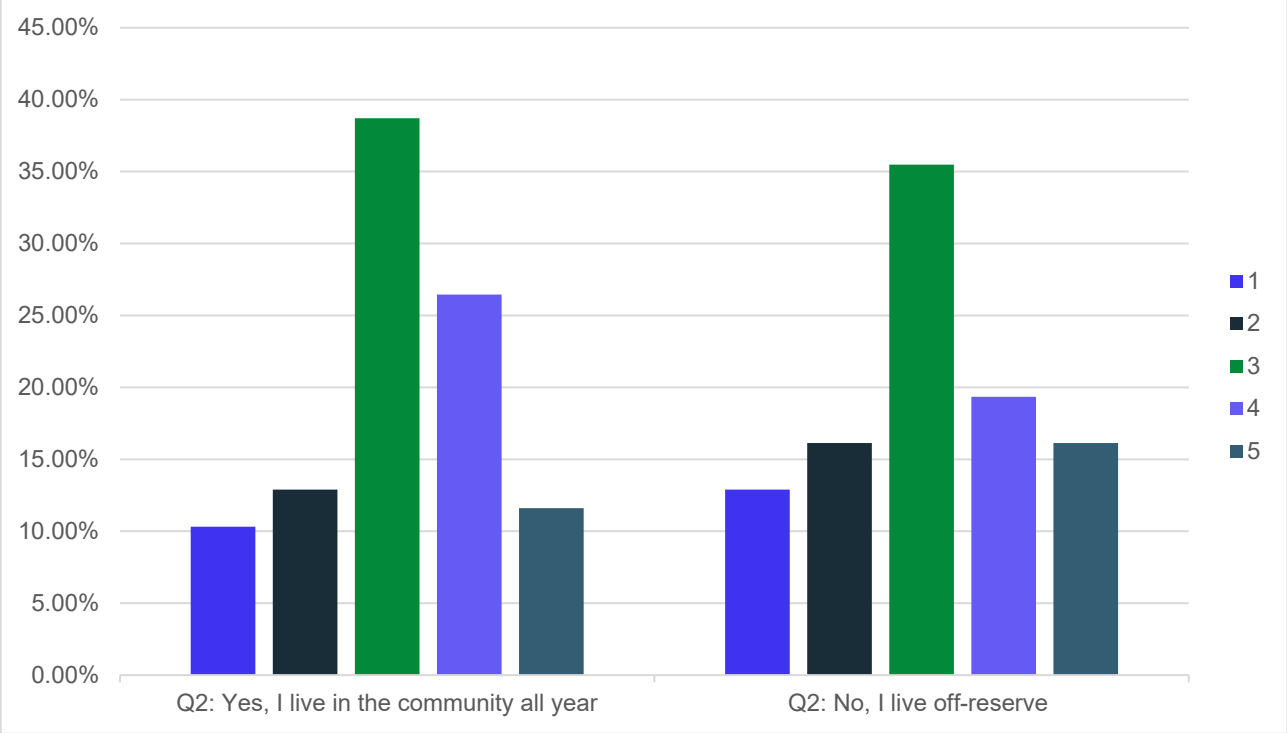
Figure 5-95: CWB Index Score for Quantity of Social Connection in Webequie First Nation Community Living On-reserve and Off-reserve (2022)



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

The community members were asked about how they would rate the number of social connections they have in Webequie First Nation (such as friends, family, and acquaintances) where 1 represents the lowest and 5 represents the highest number of connections. As shown in **Figure 5-95**, the quantity of social connections for the members of community who live on-reserve all year is somewhat higher compared with the members who live off-reserve.

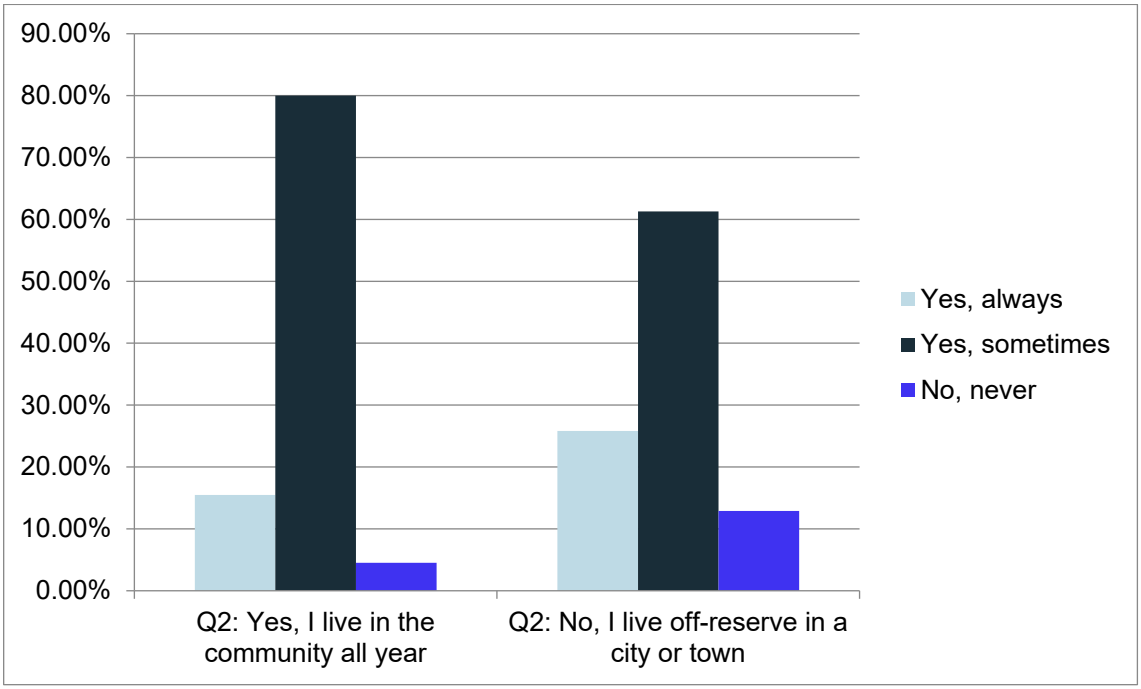
Figure 5-96: CWB Index Score for Quality of Social Connection in Webequie First Nation Community Living On-reserve and Off-reserve (2022)



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

On the same survey the community members were asked to rate the quality of their social connections in Webequie First Nation (where 1 represents weak connections and 5 as strong connections). According to results represented in **Figure 5-96** above, the quality of social connections follows the same pattern as the quantity of connections which is somewhat higher for the community members living on-reserve all year in comparison to those living off-reserve.

Figure 5-97: CWB Index Score for Participation Rate in Organized Social and/or Cultural Events/Activities in Webequie First Nation (2022)



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

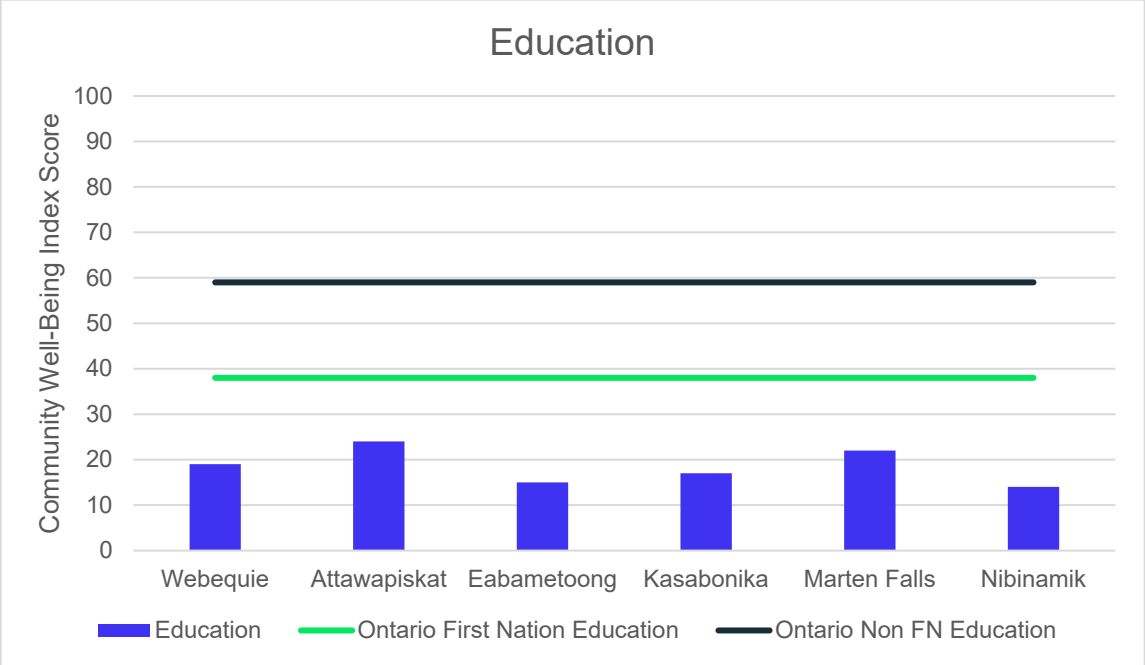
Members of the Webequie First Nation were also asked about their participation rate in organized social and/or cultural events/activities in Webequie First Nation. The results demonstrated in **Figure 5-97** indicates that the total percentage of the community members who live off-reserve and always take part in social events is roughly 25% which is about 10% higher than the participation rate for members who live on-reserve all year. As well, the number of members who live off-reserve and never take part in social events is about 8% higher than those who live on-reserve. The majority of on-reserve and off-reserve community members stated that they sometimes attend the social events with 20% of higher participation rate for on-reserve members compared to off-reserve members.

5.9.1.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Figure 5-98 to **Figure 5-107** presents and compares CWB scores for all four key Socio-Economic factors across Indigenous communities within the LSA and with First Nations in Ontario average and Canadian First Nations average. It should be noted that while an overall CWB score is available for Neskantaga First Nation and Weenusk First Nation, the 2016 Census of Population data do not have CWB scores for these Indigenous communities.

The CWB score for education across Indigenous communities within the LSA is lower than both the First Nations in Ontario average and the Ontario Non-Indigenous average (38 and 59, respectively as shown on **Figure 5-98**). Attawapiskat First Nation has a low CWB score for education (24), while Nibinamik First Nation has the lowest (14), in comparison to Indigenous nations in Canada (40) and Indigenous nations in Ontario (59).

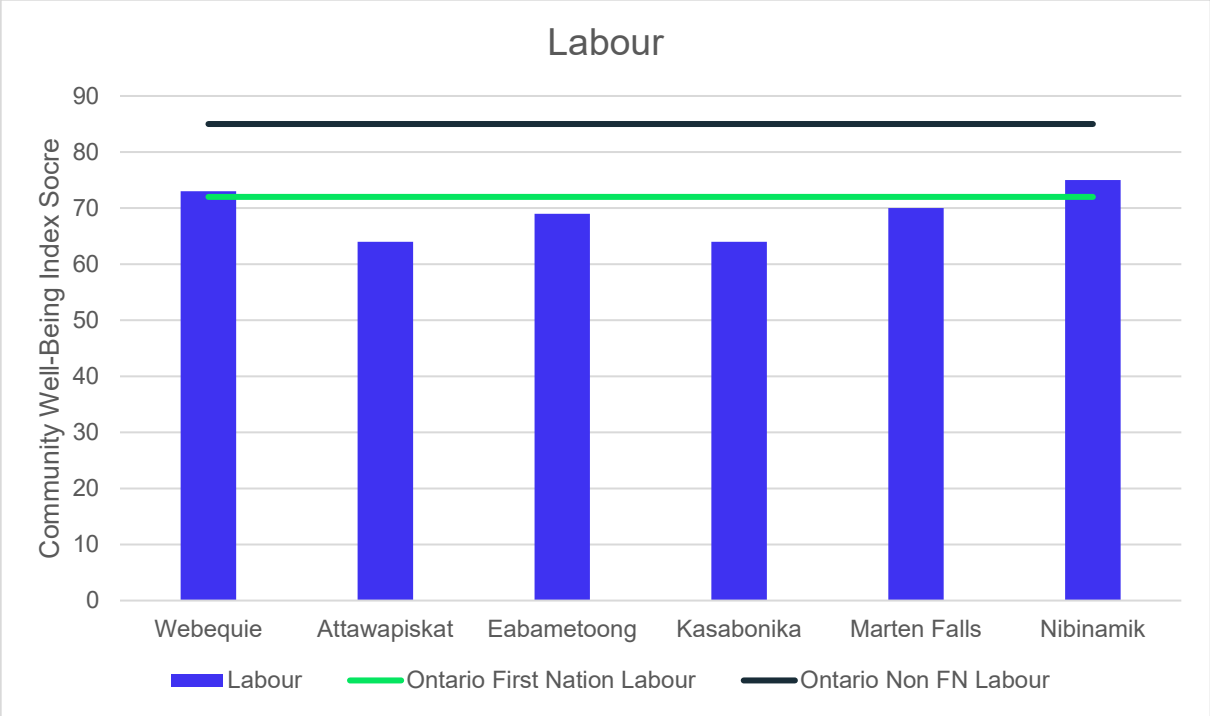
Figure 5-98: CWB Scores for Education Across Indigenous Communities in the LSA



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

Compared to Ontario non-Indigenous communities (85) CWB score for labour, two Indigenous communities have a higher labour score compared to the First Nations in Ontario average (72): Nibinamik First Nation and Webequie First Nation, with scores of 75 and 73, respectively, as shown on **Figure 5-99**. Attawapiskat First Nation and Kasabonika Lake First Nation have the lowest labour scores; both First Nations have a score of 64.

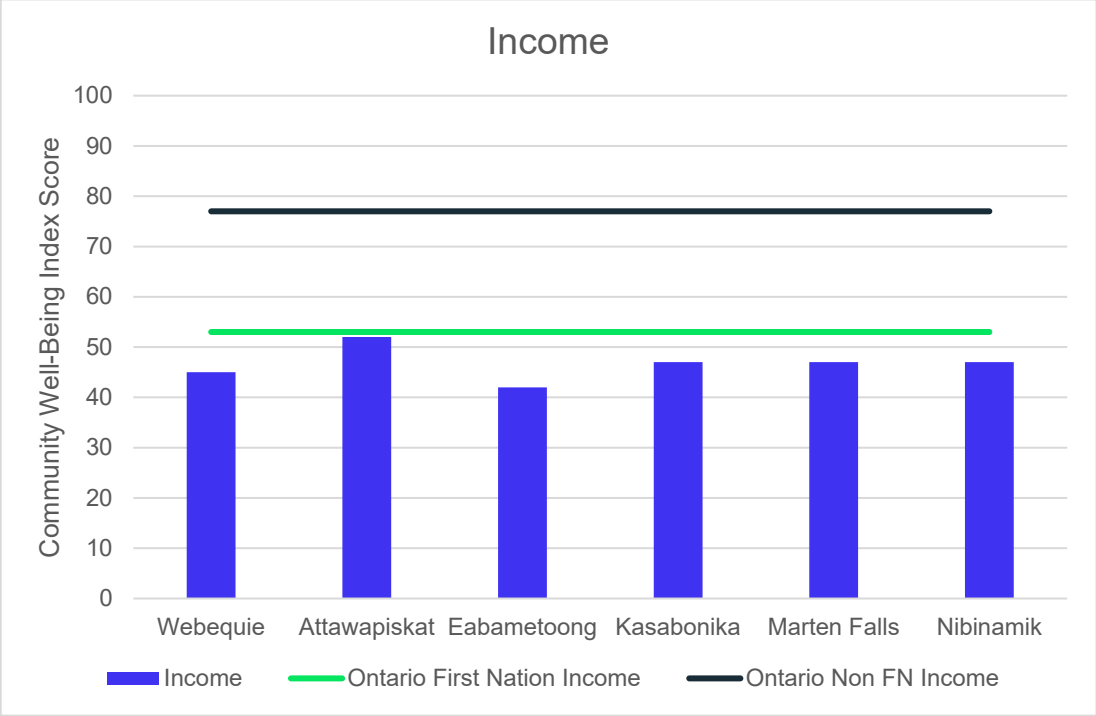
Figure 5-99: CWB Scores for Labour Across Indigenous Communities in the LSA



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

Attawapiskat First Nation's income score is 52, which is only one point lower than the First Nations in Ontario (53). Eabametoong First Nation has the lowest income score among Indigenous communities in the LSA (42), as shown in **Figure 5-100**.

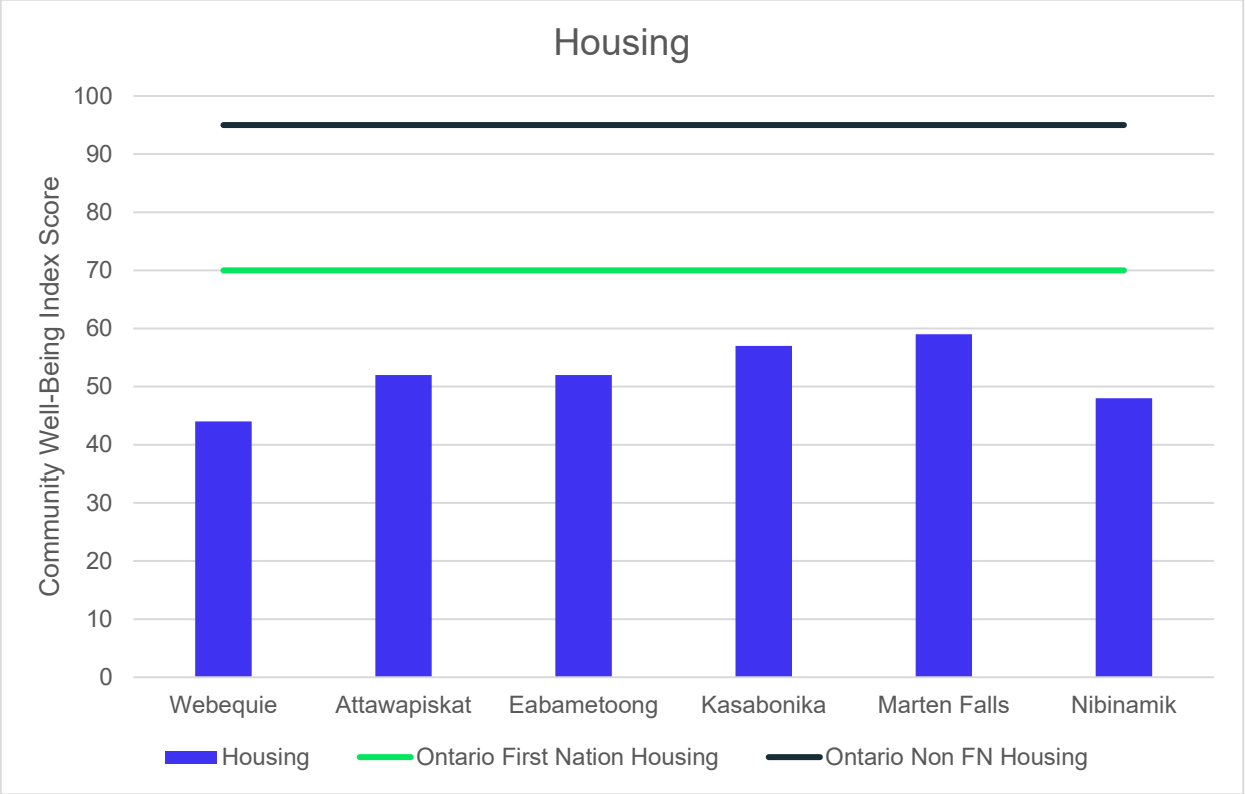
Figure 5-100: CWB Scores for Income Across Indigenous Communities in the LSA



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

All Indigenous communities within the LSA have a lower CWB score for housing compared to the average scores of both Indigenous (70) and non-Indigenous (95) communities in Ontario, as shown on **Figure 5-101**. Marten Falls First Nation scored the highest (59), while Webequie First Nation scored the lowest (44) among Indigenous communities in the LSA (42).

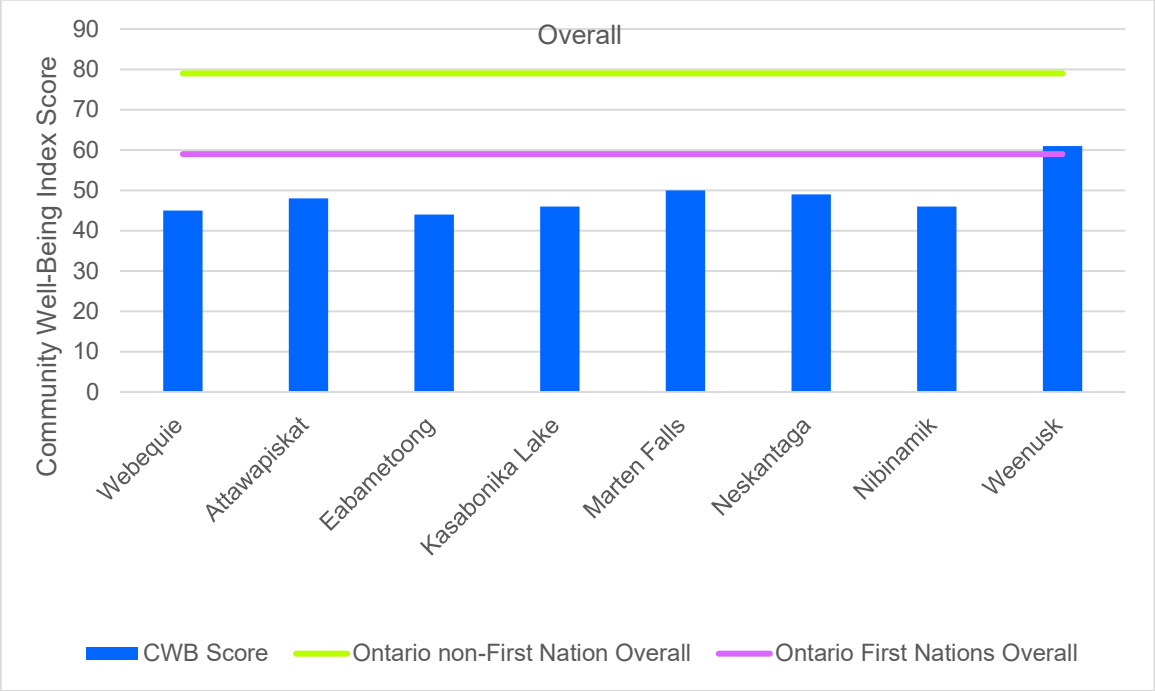
Figure 5-101: CWB Scores for Housing Across Indigenous Communities in the LSA



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The overall CWB score for all Indigenous communities within the LSA are lower than the average CWB score for both Indigenous (59) non-Indigenous communities in Ontario (79), as shown on **Figure 5-102**. Although Marten Falls First Nations had the highest overall CWB score (50), the Indigenous community that had the highest score for each Socio-Economic factor varied. Eabametoong First Nation had the lowest overall CWB score (44), followed closely by Webequie First Nation (45). Overall, Indigenous communities within the LSA scored lowest in education and housing, where all communities have a lower score than the First Nations in Ontario average.

Figure 5-102: Overall Community Well-Being (CWB) Score Across Indigenous Communities in the LSA

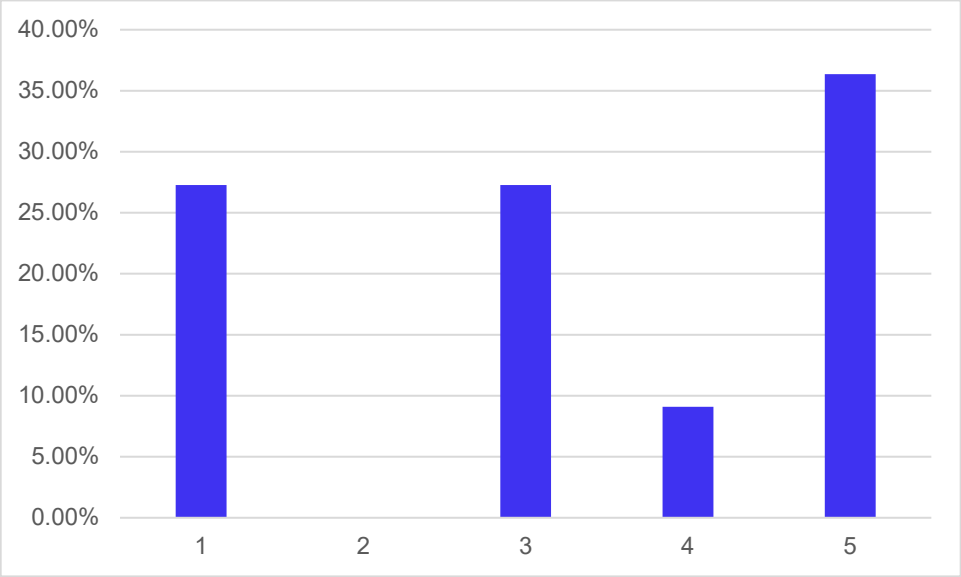


Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019

The results of an online survey conducted by AtkinsRéalis on the CWB Index factors in Weenusk and Marten Falls First Nation Communities is presented as follows. The survey questions were based on the number of social connections (such as friends, family and acquaintances), the quality of these connections, as well as the participation rate in community social events and activities.

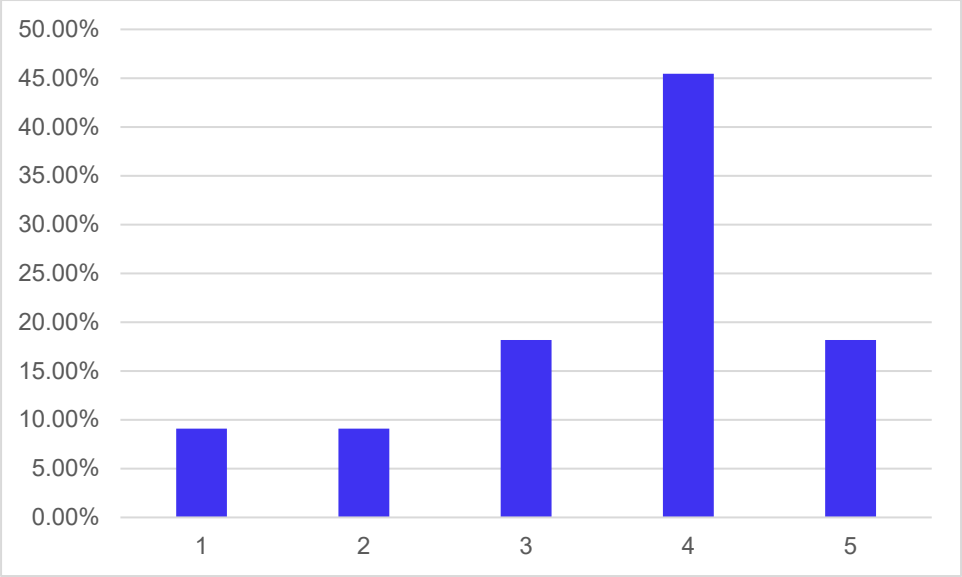
Figure 5-103 and Figure 5-104 summarizes the quantity of social connections (where 1 represents low and 5 represents high) in Weenusk and Marten Falls First Nations. This shows that respondents feel they have a moderate to high number of social connections amongst their friends, family and acquaintances within their communities.

Figure 5-103: CWB Index Score for Quantity of Social Connection in Weenusk First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

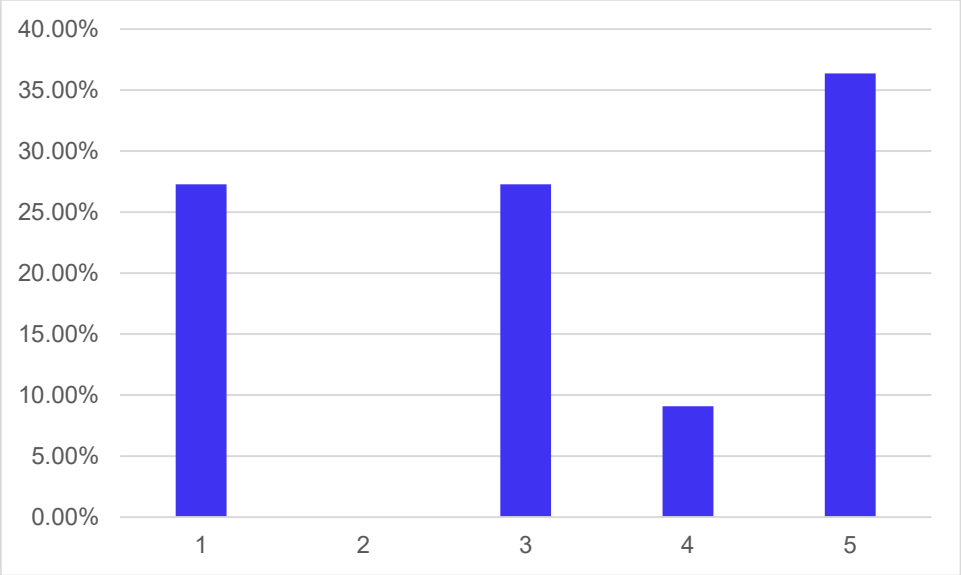
Figure 5-104: CWB Index Score for Quantity of Social Connection in Marten Falls First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

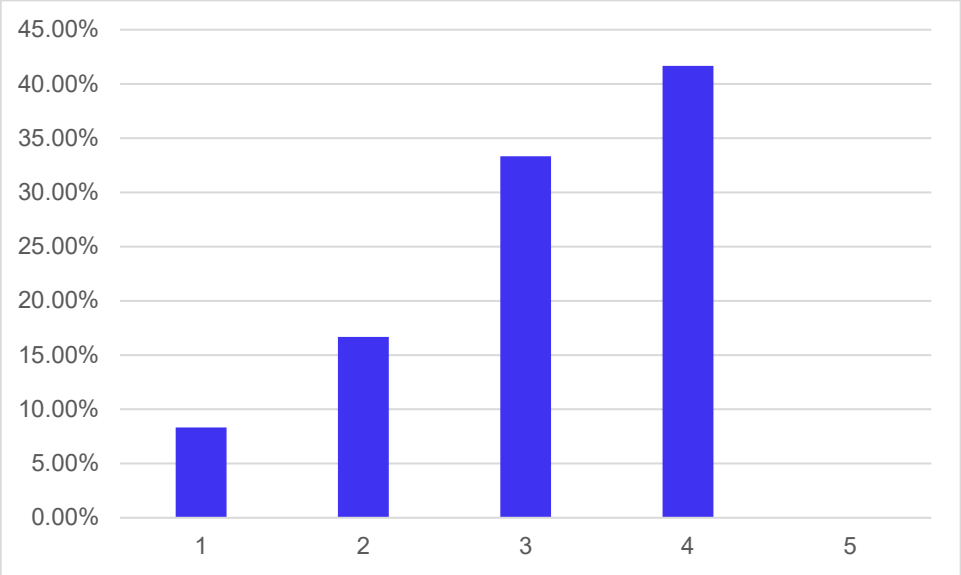
Figure 5-105 and Figure 5-106 show the quality of social connections within the community (where 1 represents weak and 5 represents strong) amongst their friends, family and acquaintances in their community. This shows that in both communities their social connections are moderate to somewhat high.

Figure 5-105: CWB Index Score for Quality of Social Connection in Weenusk First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

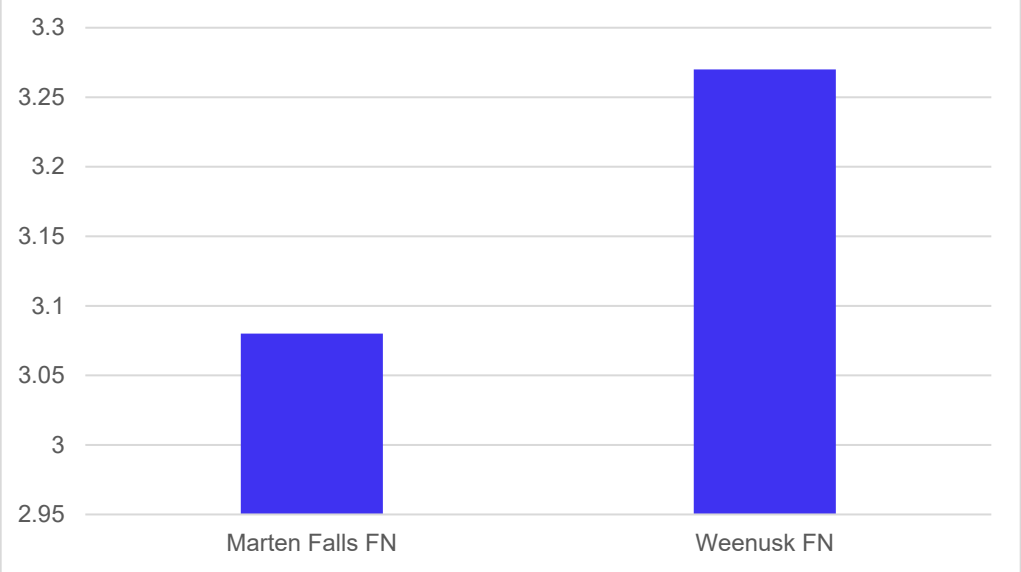
Figure 5-106: CWB Index Score for Quality of Social Connection in Marten Falls First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

For the quality of social connections factor, the results shown in **Figure 5-107** below presents the quality of social connections in Weenusk and Marten Falls First Nation communities (where 1 indicates weak and 5 represents high quality of social connections). The weighted average result for both communities has a slight difference with a higher average for Weenusk First Nation (3.27%) and a lower value for the Marten Falls (3.08%) indicating a relatively similar quality of social connections in both communities.

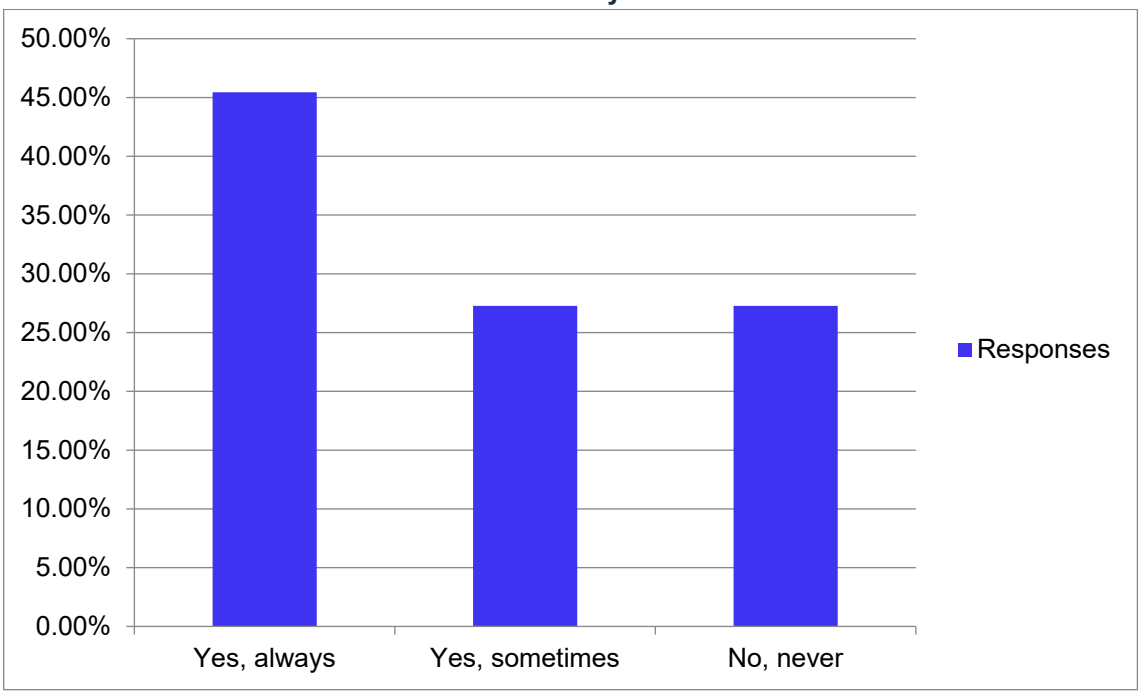
Figure 5-107: Comparison of the CWB Index Score for Quality of Social Connection in Marten Falls and Weenusk First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

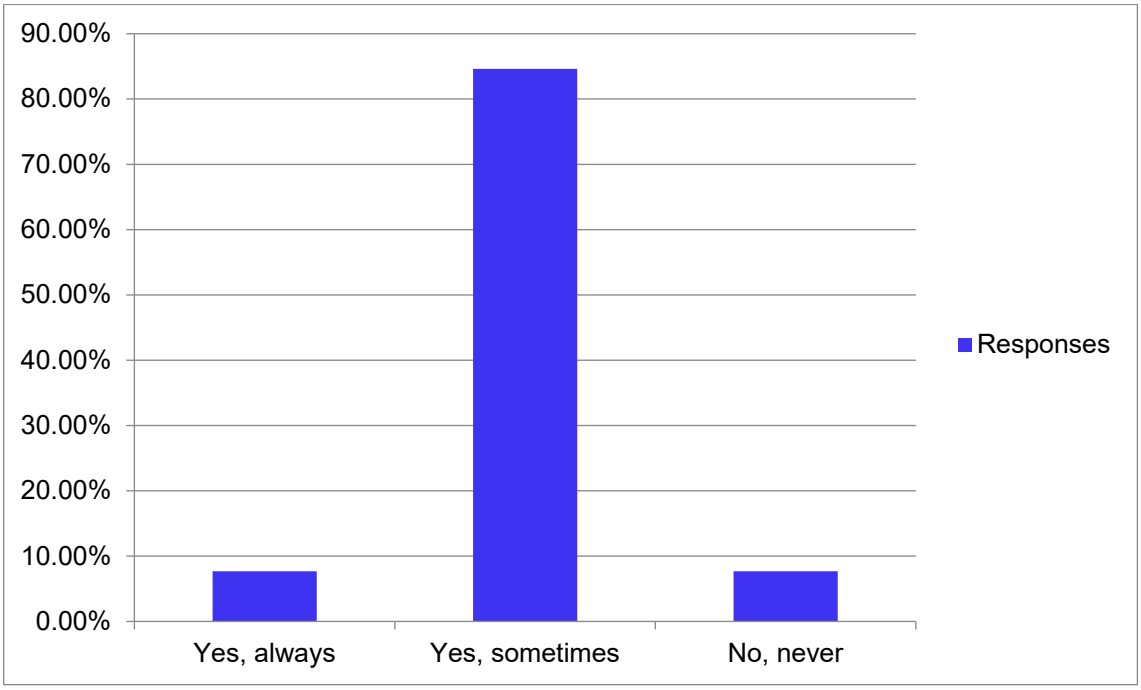
The other CWB Index factor surveyed in both communities is the participation rate in organized social events and activities. Based on the results demonstrated in **Figure 5-108** and **Figure 5-109**, the Weenusk First Nation Community members who always contribute to social events is considerably higher (45.45%) comparing to the same value in Marten Falls First Nation community (7.69%). Meanwhile, the percentage of Marten Falls Community members who sometimes attend the social events is more than two times higher than the same value (27.27%) in the Weenusk First Nation Community. Also, the Marten Falls First Nation Community has a low rate of members who never participate in the social events comparing to the Marten Falls First Nation non-attendants (27.27%).

Figure 5-108: CWB Index Score for Participation Rate in Organized Social and/or Cultural Events/Activities in Weenusk First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

Figure 5-109: CWB Index Score for Participation Rate in Organized Social and/or Cultural Events/Activities in Marten Falls First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

5.9.1.1.3 GBA+ Considerations on Culture and Community Cohesion

Understanding Webequie First Nation culture and community cohesion[21] helps to understand who may be more vulnerable to potential Project-related changes to Webequie's culture and cohesion, such as youth, women and girls, Elders, and land users. This includes understanding traditional activities practiced by community members, social and cultural events in the community and level of participation by community members, and social connections within the community.

The colonization and land dispossession experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada contributed to a loss of culture, language, and the transmission of intergenerational traditional knowledge, and ultimately led to the intergenerational trauma Indigenous peoples experience today (Ninomiya et al., 2023). The connection of Indigenous peoples to their culture and community and their sense of identity are critical to addressing these traumas (Maracle, 2021). Indigenous identity is an active process that needs affirmation, support, and enhancement through the practice of culture and social connection (Maracle, 2021). The expression of Indigenous identity is important for both individual and community well-being and allows individuals to reconnect with their culture and history (Maracle, 2021).

Webequie's Oji-Cree culture has survived the severe impacts of colonization and residential schools; however, many suffered the loss of their language and cultural skills as a result of residential schooling (Webequie First Nation, 2014; SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Residential schools had major impacts on the identities of Indigenous children, and this intergenerational trauma continues to affect youth identity in the community today (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Webequie First Nation members are aware of the risk of further potential changes to their culture and traditional practices as a result of industrial development, an inherently colonial system, and have expressed that community remoteness can help maintain and enhance their traditional way of life (Webequie First Nation, 2014; Markusoff, 2018; Webequie First Nation, 2019a).

Cultural continuity plays an important role in youth resilience (Heid et al., 2022). Webequie members have expressed that the well-being of their youth is a primary concern in the community, who currently face challenges including mental health, substance use, and isolation (see above for more information on culture and community cohesion, **Section 5.3** for mental health and addictions) (SNC-Lavalin 2023; 2022a). Members also feel that technology and outside influences have played a role in youth not learning Webequie culture (Webequie First Nation, 2021; SNC-Lavalin, 2023). One way in which Webequie works to involve youth in cultural activities is through the Choose Life program, which facilitates the learning of land-related topics (e.g., hunting, canoeing, fishing) from Elders for youth aged seven to 17, and by integrating culture into the school curriculum (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; Webequie First Nation, 2021). Webequie members stress the importance of youth involvement in cultural practices and developing their relationship with the land as critical to their physical and mental well-being (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; 2022a).

The cohesion of a community impacts its social capital, the maintenance of healthy social connections that can improve the flow of information, cooperation, trust, productivity, and reciprocity (Ratelle & Packette, 2019). Small communities like Webequie First Nation often have strong social capital, which can be witnessed through acts such as neighbours sharing their harvest (e.g., meat, fish) with members who are unable to harvest themselves (e.g., Elders) or may be food insecure, something known to occur among Webequie residents (see **Section 6.2.1.1**). Sharing amongst community members can increase a community's resilience (Ratelle & Packette, 2019).

Residents of Webequie First Nation have described the community as a friendly and good place to live but have expressed the desire for more community involvement and activities, noting the inconsistency of community events and programming, particularly for youth (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; 2022a). Webequie organizes community events throughout the year, including summer and winter festivals and summer powwows, which also bring in people from surrounding

[21] A socially cohesive community provides citizens with a shared feeling of belonging and inclusion, and where citizens participate actively in public affairs, tolerate existing differences, and enjoy relative equality in access to public goods and services and distribution of income and wealth (FAO, n.d.).

communities (Webequie First Nation, 2021). Other community activities held in the summer include sporting tournaments (e.g., floor hockey, broomball), talent shows, games, youth weeks, drum groups, ribbon-making, and wild game and fish cooking (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Results from the Webequie First Nation Community Well-Being Study (2014) showed that over 75% of households said that at least one member of their household participates in community sports, community events, and fundraising. Community events were the most popular for participation, with over 90% of households reporting that they attend community events. The Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a) indicated that residents remain involved in community events. When asked if they participate in organized social and/or cultural activities/events always, sometimes, or never, the majority (76.5%) of those who responded said they sometimes do. This was also the response for the majority (81.1%) of respondents aged 15-30 and the majority (66.7%) of respondents aged 66+.

The Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a) further helps provide an indication of social connections in the community. When asked to rate the number of their social connections in Webequie on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high), the majority (38.3%) of those who responded rated the number of their social connections in the community as a 4, indicating they felt they were connected to a relatively high number of community members. The majority (33.3%) of female respondents rated the number of their social connections in the community as 3, indicating they felt they had a moderate number of social connections. When asked to rate the quality of their social connections in Webequie on a scale from 1 (weak) to 5 (strong), the majority (37.6%) of those who responded rated the quality of their social connections in the community as a 3, indicating they felt their relationships are average in quality. This was also the rating for the majority (41.2%).

Some focus group participants, including land users and women, shared hopes that the Project could potentially improve social connection and community involvement (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Community cohesion can act as a protective factor against the most visible forms of abuse of women and girls (see **Section 5.9.2**) (Poix et al., 2022).

Webequie First Nation members take part in numerous traditional activities as a way of expressing their Oji-Cree culture, including hunting, trapping, fishing, ceremonies, and gathering/harvesting, which tie them closely to their land and culture. Results of the Webequie First Nation Well-Being Survey (Webequie First Nation, 2014) suggest Webequie members are highly involved in traditional activities, with approximately 95% of respondents indicating that at least one family member participated in some type of cultural activity at least three times per year. The Webequie First Nation Community Based Land Use Plan (Webequie First Nation, 2019a) indicates that the Webequie First Nation Traditional Customary Practice and Use Area extends 40 km to 50 km in radius around the community for traditional and recreational activities. In particular, Eastwood Island is an important place for harvesting and gathering. Webequie members hunt moose, caribou, and waterfowl amongst other species which provide a good source of healthy foods. Furbearing animals harvested from trapping are used for food as well as tools and clothing, such as moccasins, mitts, and fur hats. Harvesting trees not only provides wood for heating homes in the community, but is also used by members for snowshoes, sleighs, building, and medicine. Different fish species harvested by Webequie members are said to provide different cultural uses that go back many generations, such as using the skin of northern pike to make bags/containers for storing fat or oil for candles (Webequie First Nation, 2019a).

Fishing is common in the community, with over 80% of Webequie households taking part and over 30% of households having 3 or more members who fish. Further, 70% of Webequie First Nation households reported that at least one adult member had spent 4+ days on the land in the last year and nearly 48% of Webequie First Nation households reported at least one adult member participating in trips of four or more days that totaled to 14 days or more. 40% of households said they had youth or children spending four or more consecutive days on traditional land and 20% said they had youth or children spend a total of 14 or more days on traditional land (Webequie First Nation, 2014). The Community Health Survey found that the majority (55.6%) of respondents said they go out on the land (e.g., hunting, fishing, chopping wood, walking, snowshoeing) less often than once per week, with the second largest group (33.3%) saying they get out on the land a few times per week (Intrinsik, 2023).

When asked if concerned about the loss of traditional culture in Webequie First Nation, the majority (75.2%) of survey respondents answered 'yes' (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Of those concerned for loss of their traditional culture, 92% said they were concerned for loss of traditional land use and 90.2% said they were concerned for loss of traditional values. Webequie members have expressed specific concerns for loss of traditions amongst their youth, who face social isolation and boredom in the community as well as substantial expenses associated with getting out on the land, and desire for more involvement of Elders in youth events (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; 2022a).

Seniors can also be more vulnerable to social changes, as they are prone to loneliness and isolation, which can be linked to poorer health outcomes. This includes changes to their social circumstances, such as changes to or loss of family and social groups. Engagement in meaningful social activities is important to reduce the risk of loneliness and isolation for Elders (Tonkin et al., 2018). Elders are key to the transmission of traditional knowledge, values, and culture to younger community members (Viscogliosi et al., 2020), and Webequie members have expressed a desire to improve Elder participation in social events, particularly with youth, and to provide them with more community services (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; 2022a).

As noted in the Webequie First Nation Community Based Land Use Plan (Webequie First Nation, 2019a), the protection of Webequie culture relies on harmonizing new activities with the existing pursuits of community members.

The WSR Project has the potential to affect the culture and cohesion of the Webequie First Nation community, with youth, women and girls, Elders, and land users potentially feeling these effects disproportionately. As shown through the severe and long-lasting effects of colonization, destabilization of a community's culture and cohesion can affect the identities of its members (Maracle, 2021). Analysis of potential project affects on Indigenous peoples and their land and culture must be done with acknowledgment of these colonial and historical contexts (Hoogeveen et al., 2021).

5.9.1.2 Regional Study Area

The Socio-Economic Baseline includes a review of the Community-Well Being scores for the RSA communities.

Table 5-100 summarizes the CWB scores for other Indigenous communities, municipalities, cities, and townships within the RSA. The Wawakapewin First Nation is absent from this table as there is no CWB score for this Indigenous community from the 2016 Census of Population data. The 2016 CWB data provides the overall score for Ginoogaming First Nation but does not provide scores for each Socio-Economic factor. The Ontario non-Indigenous averages for all Socio-Economic factors are generally slightly higher or the same as the Canadian non-Indigenous averages.

Overall CWB scores as well as the individual criteria scores for the Indigenous communities within the RSA are lower than the Municipalities within the RSA. A stark difference in scores can be seen especially when it comes to education, income, and housing. This trend holds true in all three districts in this RSA. The highest difference in scores between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities can be seen when it comes to education as Indigenous communities had lower scores. This indicates that there is a lot of scope for improvement in this area and that further assistance from provincial and federal governments would be required to improve the situation.

As seen in **Table 5-100**, housing scores amongst the Indigenous communities in the RSA are not similar. Constance Lake, Aroland and Long Lake #58 First Nations have higher scores than the rest. These are also the communities that are either closer to urban centres or connected by all season roads.

These trends indicate that Indigenous communities face unique challenges when it comes to all CWB criteria. Special attention of the provincial and federal governments would be required to address these challenges. To improve income and labour outcomes for Indigenous communities, more opportunities need to be created for economic development.

Table 5-100: CWB Index Scores for Communities within the Regional Study Area

Community	Overall	Education	Labour	Income	Housing
Kenora District					
Kashechewan First Nation	39	27	57	36	36
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug	43	13	66	42	52
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	55	18	81	53	68
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	36	13	64	40	26
North Caribou Lake First Nation	54	26	76	53	61
Wapekeka First Nation	46	13	73	46	53
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	50	22	71	44	61
Township of Pickle Lake	77	59	85	79	84
Municipality of Sioux Lookout	80	59	89	79	92
Thunder Bay District					
Aroland First Nation	56	34	69	48	75
Ginoogaming First Nation	54	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long Lake #58 First Nation	49	24	52	40	79
City of Thunder Bay	80	63	85	79	95
Municipality of Greenstone	75	51	80	77	93
Cochrane District					
Constance Lake First Nation	57	30	63	53	84
Fort Albany First Nation	55	33	74	56	58
City of Timmins	79	57	85	80	95
Ontario Non-Indigenous	79	59	85	77	95
Canadian Non-Indigenous	77	56	84	76	95

Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

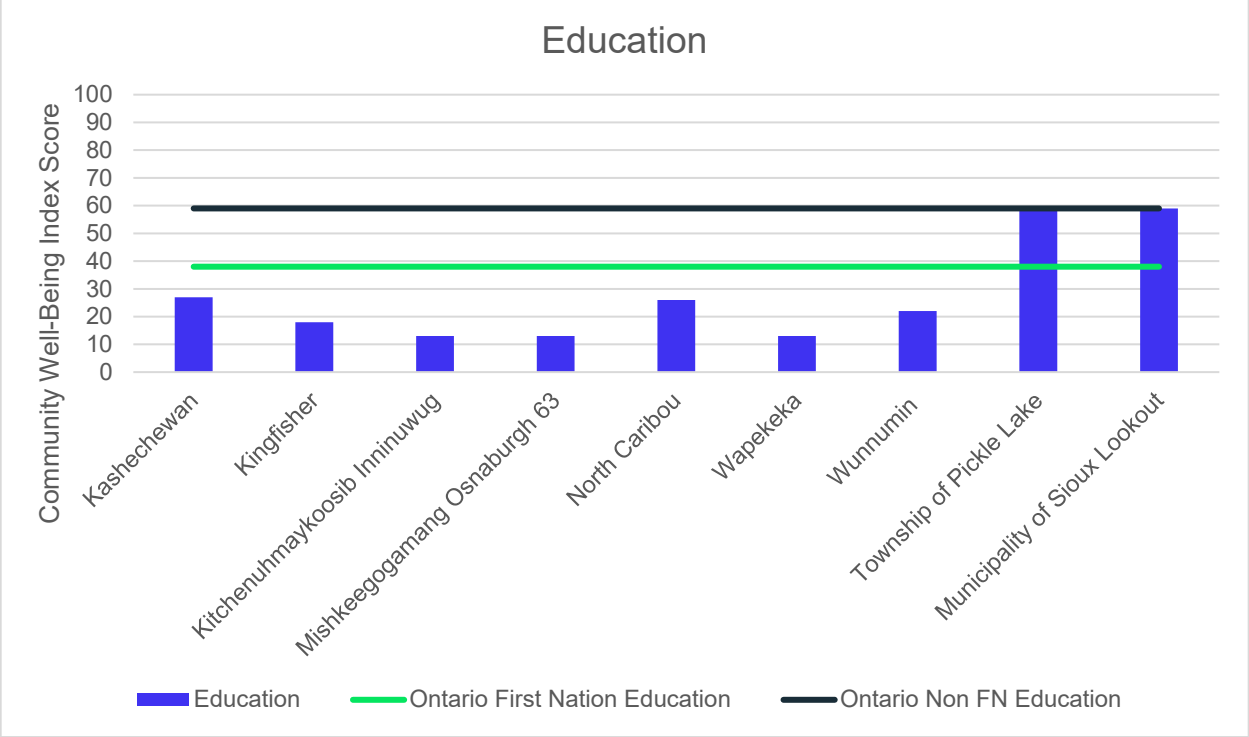
5.9.1.2.1 Kenora District

Figure 5-110 to **Figure 5-112** compare CWB scores for all four key socio-economic factors across Indigenous communities in the Kenora District and with Ontario Indigenous and non-Indigenous averages.

Both the Township of Pickle Lake and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout have the same education score as the Ontario non-Indigenous average (59), as shown on **Figure 5-110**.

All Indigenous communities scored lower than the First Nations in Ontario average for education (38), with lowest score being 13 (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, and Wapekeka First Nation).

Figure 5-110: CWB Scores for Formal Education Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Kenora District

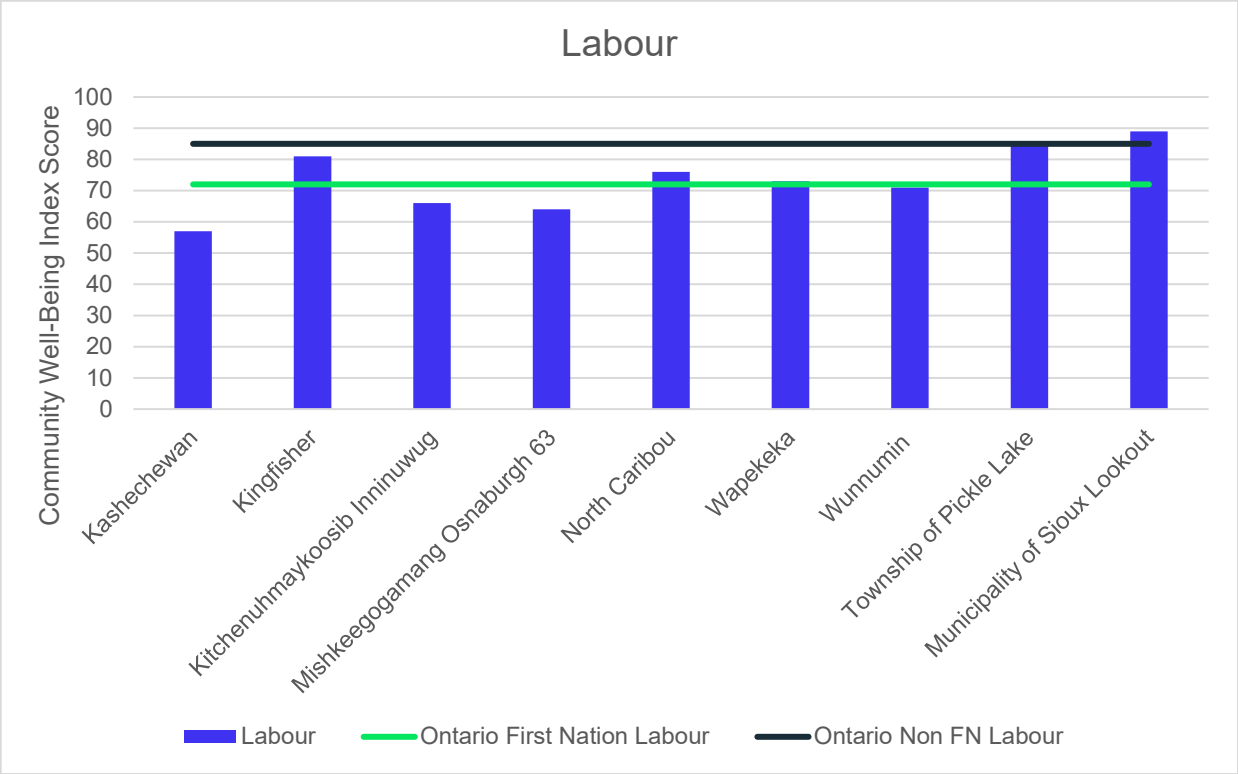


Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout has a higher CWB score for labour than the Ontario non-Indigenous average (85), while the Township of Pickle Lake has the same score as the Ontario non-Indigenous average, as shown on **Figure 5-111**.

Kingfisher Lake First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation, and Wapekeka First Nation have a higher score than the First Nations in Ontario average (81, 76, and 73, respectively). Kashechewan First Nation has a score of 57, making the lowest among all communities in the Kenora District.

Figure 5-111: CWB Scores for Labour Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Kenora District

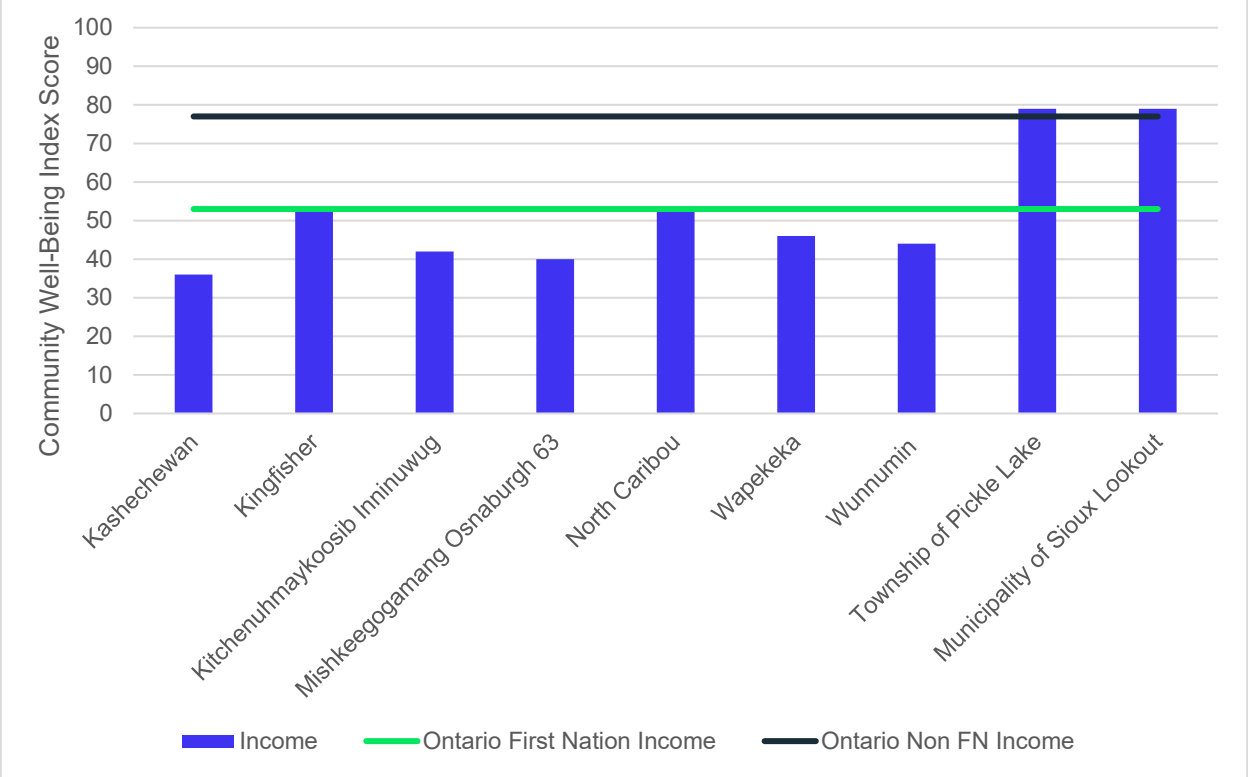


Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

Both the Township of Pickle Lake and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout have a higher CWB score for income than the Ontario non-Indigenous averages (77), both with the same score of 79, as shown on **Figure 5-112**.

Both Kingfisher Lake First Nation and North Caribou Lake First Nation have the same score for income as the First Nations in Ontario average. Kashechewan First Nation has a score of 36, making the lowest among all communities in the Kenora District.

Figure 5-112: CWB Scores for Income Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Kenora District

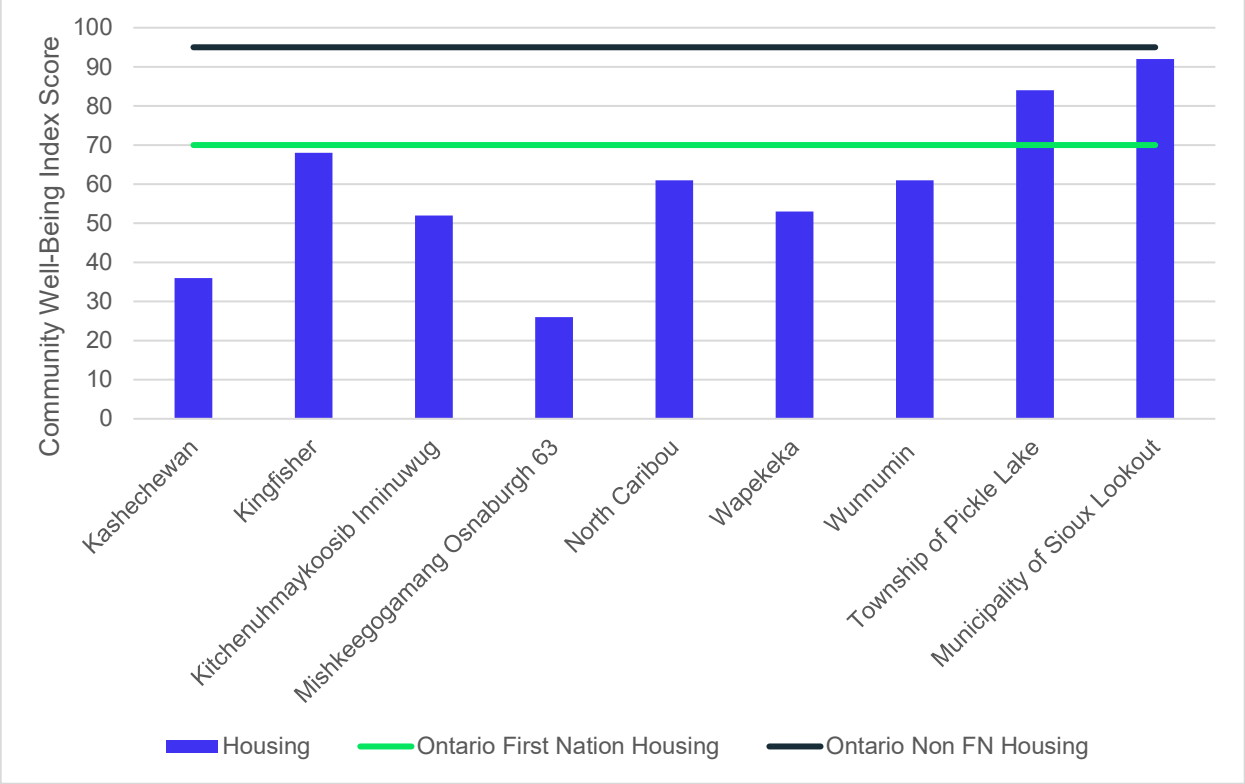


Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout has the highest CWB score for housing (92), followed by the Township of Pickle Lake (84), as shown on **Figure 5-113**, but both are lower than the Ontario non-Indigenous average (95).

All Indigenous communities in the Kenora District scored lower than the First Nations in Ontario average (70), with Mishkeegogamang First Nation scoring the lowest (26).

Figure 5-113: CWB Scores for Housing Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Kenora District

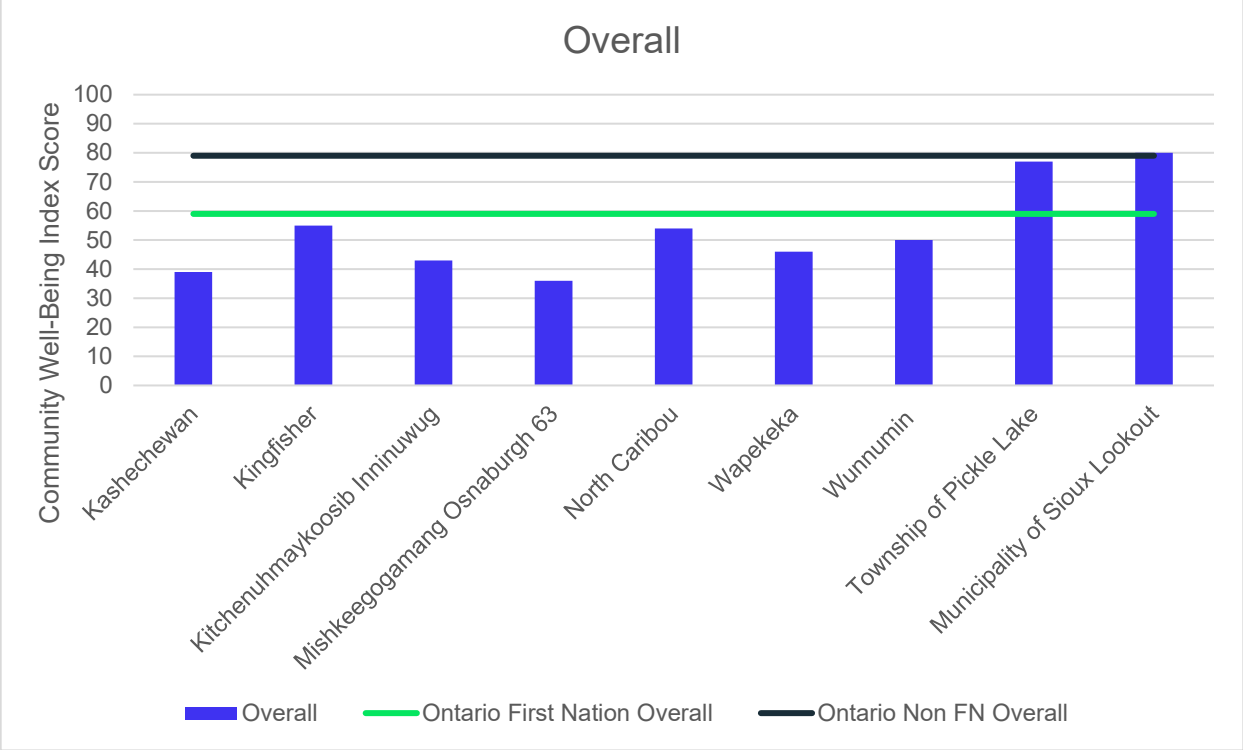


Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The overall CWB score for non-Indigenous communities in Ontario is 79, as shown on **Figure 5-114**. The Municipality of Sioux Lookout scored a higher overall score (80) than the Ontario non-Indigenous average, while the Township of Pickle Lake has a lower overall score (77) compared to the Ontario non-Indigenous average.

The overall CWB scores for Indigenous communities in the Kenora District are lower than the First Nations in Ontario average (59), with Mishkeegogamang First Nation scoring the lowest overall (36) as well as in two out of the four Socio-Economic factors (education and housing). Kashechewan First Nation, although having a higher overall CWB score (39) than Mishkeegogamang First Nation, scored the lowest in labour and income.

Figure 5-114: Overall CWB Scores Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Kenora District



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

Overall, non-Indigenous communities in the Kenora District have a similar CWB index to the average CWB index for non-Indigenous communities in Ontario. However, Indigenous communities in this district generally have a lower CWB index compared to the average CWB index for Indigenous communities in Ontario. Indigenous communities within the Kenora District scored lowest in education and housing, where all communities have a lower score than the First Nations in Ontario average.

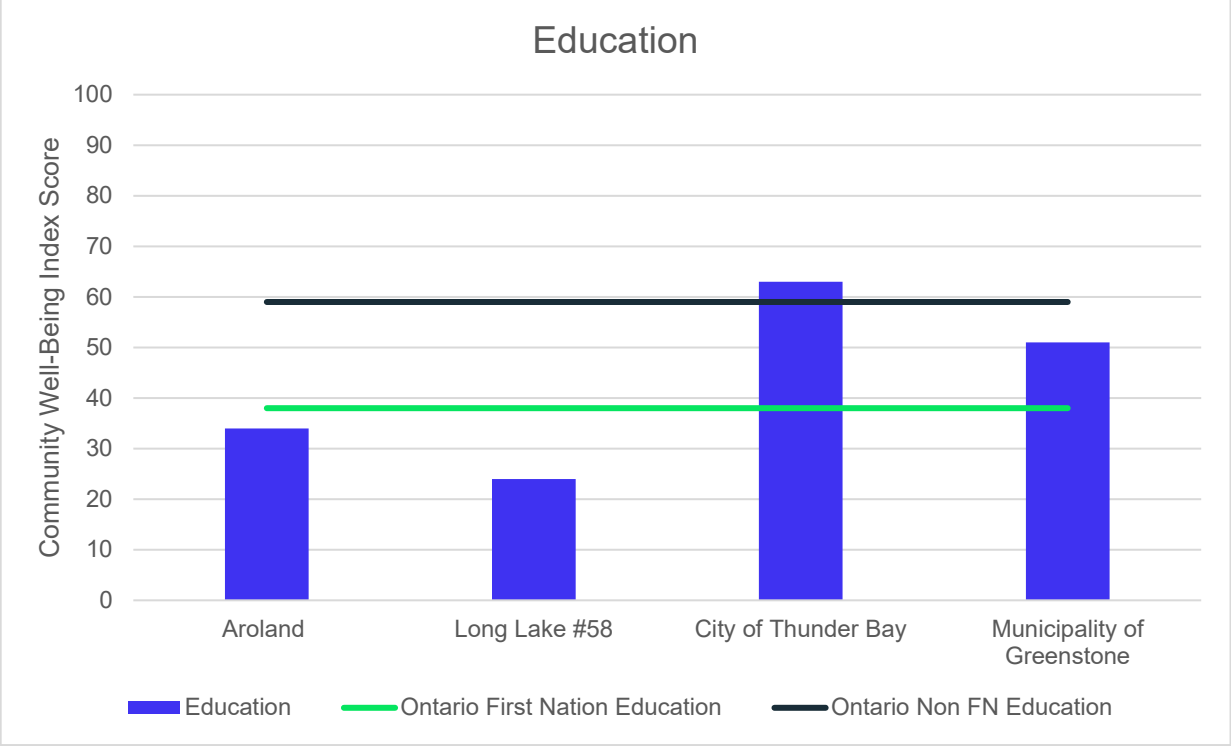
5.9.1.2.2 Thunder Bay District

Figure 5-115 to **Figure 5-119** compare CWB scores for all 4 key Socio-Economic factors across Indigenous communities in the Thunder Bay District RSA and with Ontario Indigenous and non-Indigenous averages. Although Ginoogaming First Nation has an overall CWB score, there are no scores listed for education, labour, income, or housing in the 2016 Census of Population data. As such, is not presented in this section.

The City of Thunder Bay has a higher score for education (63) than the Ontario non-Indigenous community average (59), while the Municipality of Greenstone has a lower score (51) than the Ontario non-Indigenous average, as shown on **Figure 5-115**.

Both Aroland First Nation and Long Lake #58 First Nation have lower scores for education (34 and 24, respectively) compared to the First Nations in Ontario average (38).

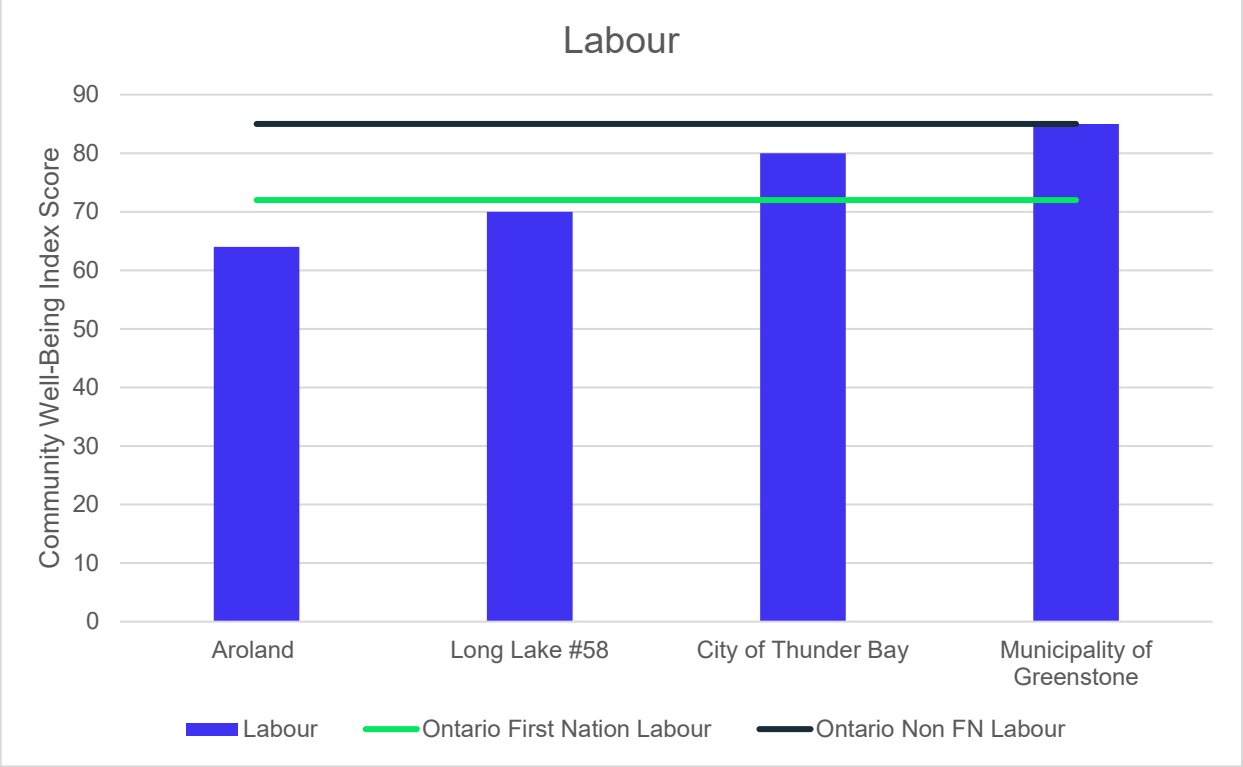
Figure 5-115: CWB Scores for Education Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Thunder Bay District



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The Municipality of Greenstone has the same score for labour as the Ontario non-Indigenous average (85), while the City of Thunder Bay has a lower score (80) than the Ontario non-Indigenous average, as shown on **Figure 5-116**. Both Aroland First Nation and Long Lake #58 First Nation have lower scores for labour (64 and 70, respectively) compared to the First Nations in Ontario average (72).

Figure 5-116: CWB Scores for Labour Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Thunder Bay District

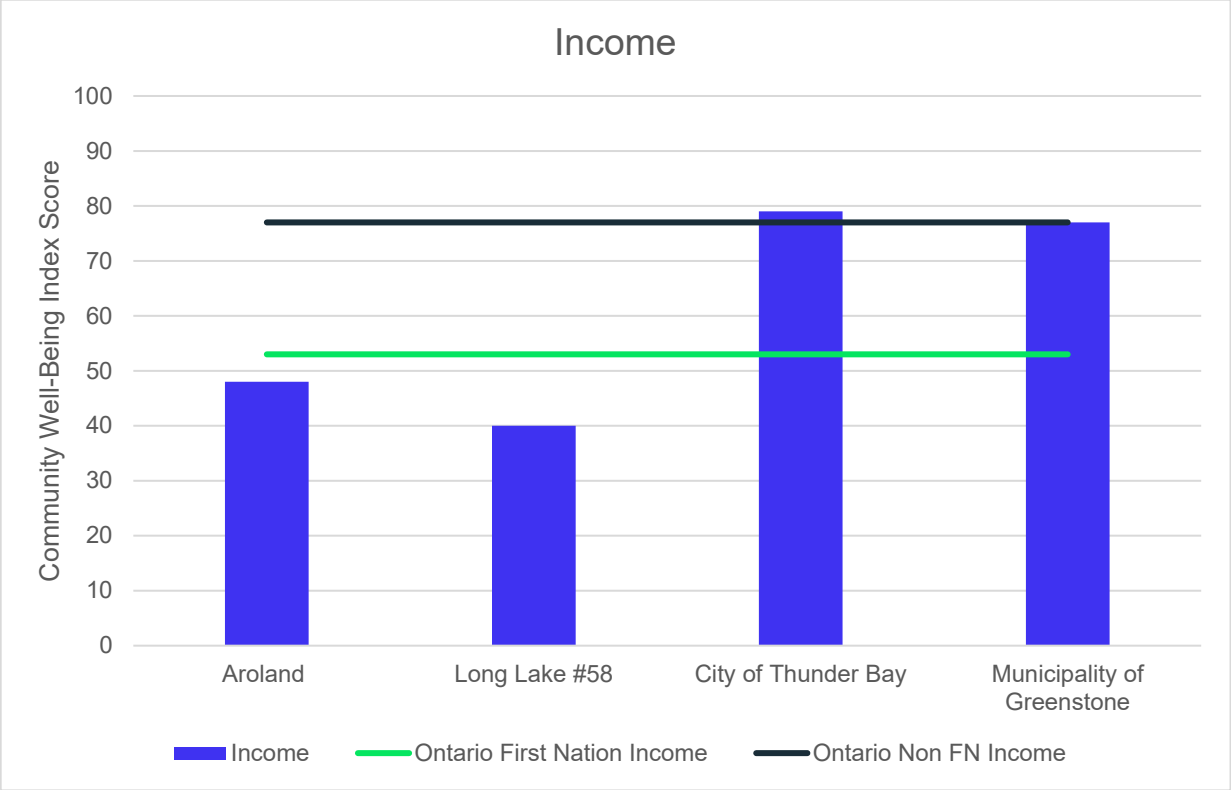


Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The City of Thunder Bay has a higher score for income (79) compared to the Ontario non-Indigenous average (77), while the Municipality of Greenstone has the same score as the Ontario non-Indigenous average, as shown on **Figure 5-116**.

Both Aroland First Nation and Long Lake #58 First Nation have lower scores for income (48 and 40, respectively) compared to the First Nations in Ontario average (53).

Figure 5-117: Indigenous Communities in the Thunder Bay District

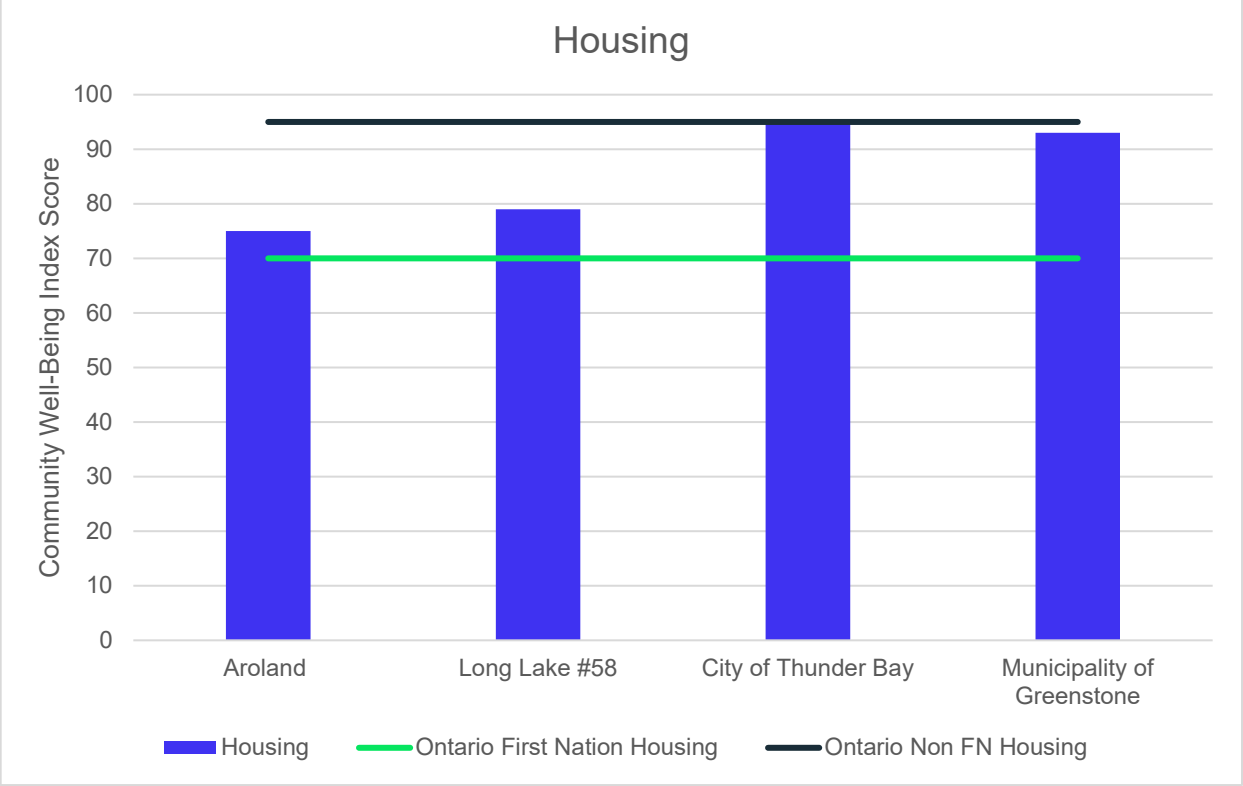


Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The City of Thunder Bay has the same score for housing as the Ontario non-Indigenous average (95), while the Municipality of Greenstone has a lower score (93) than the Ontario non-Indigenous average, as shown on **Figure 5-117**.

Both Aroland First Nation and Long Lake #58 First Nation have higher scores for housing (75 and 79, respectively) compared to the First Nations in Ontario average (70).

Figure 5-118: CWB Scores for Housing Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Thunder Bay District

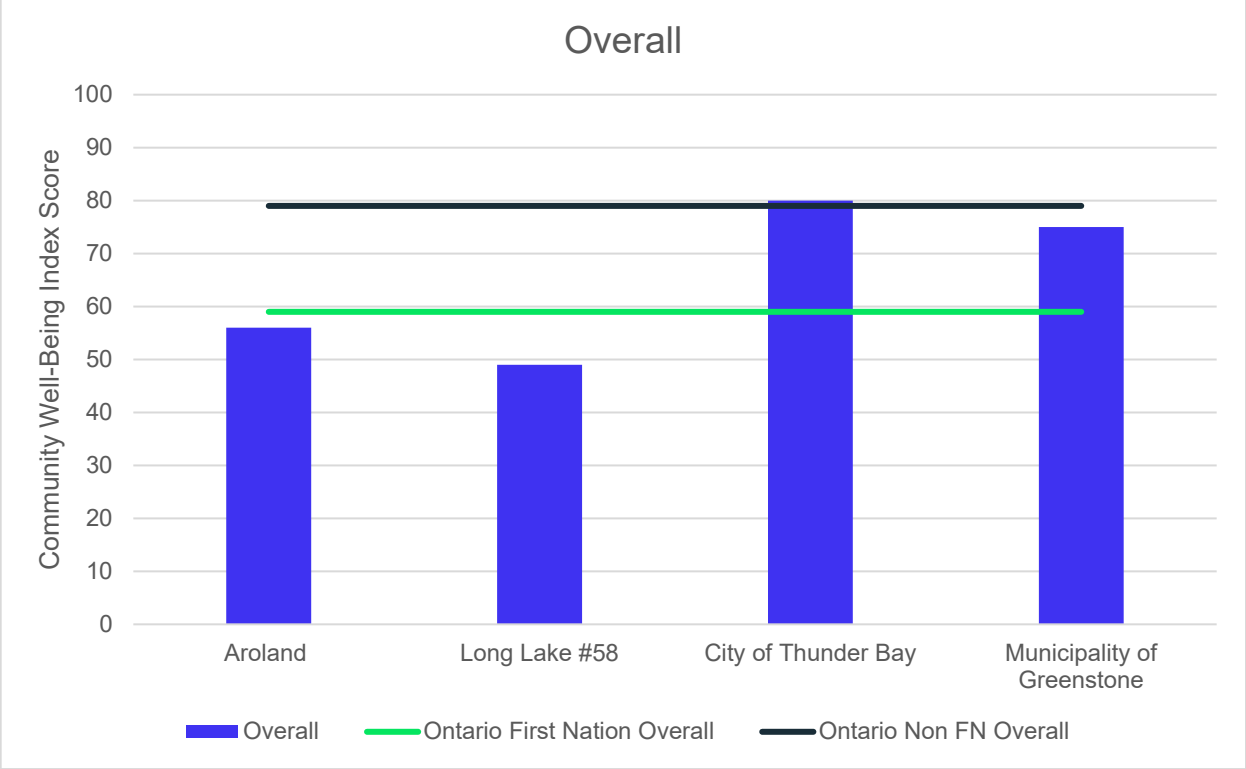


Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The City of Thunder Bay scored a higher overall score (80) than the Ontario non-Indigenous average (79), while the Municipality of Greenstone has a lower overall score (75) compared to the Ontario non-Indigenous average, as shown on **Figure 5-119**.

Both Aroland First Nation and Long Lake #58 First Nation have lower overall CWB scores (56 and 49, respectively) compared to the First Nations in Ontario average (59).

Figure 5-119: Overall CWB Scores Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Thunder Bay District



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

Overall, the CWB index for City of Thunder Bay is higher or the same as the average CWB index for non-Indigenous communities in Ontario, with the exception being in labour where the City of Thunder Bay has a lower score than the average. The CWB index for the Municipality of Greenstone is generally lower than the average CWB index for non-Indigenous communities in Ontario, with the exception also being labour where the Municipality of Greenstone has the same score as the average.

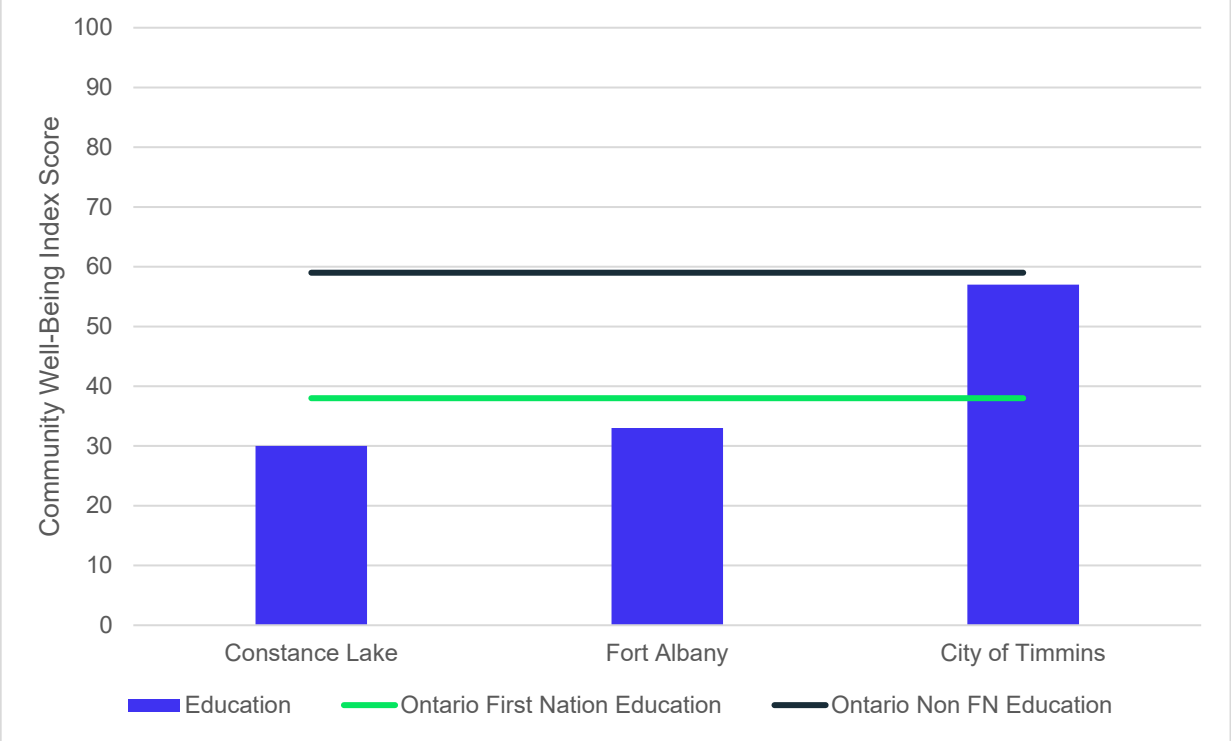
In three out of the four Socio-Economic factors (education, labour, and income), Aroland First Nation and Long Lake #58 First Nation have lower CWB scores than the average for Indigenous communities in Ontario; housing was the only Socio-Economic factor where both First Nations community had a higher score than the First Nations in Ontario average.

5.9.1.2.3 Cochrane District

Figure 5-120 to **Figure 5-124** compare CWB scores for all four key Socio-Economic factors across Indigenous communities in the Cochrane District and with Ontario Indigenous and non-Indigenous averages.

The City of Timmins has a lower score for education (57) compared to the Ontario non-Indigenous average (59), while both Constance Lake First Nation and Fort Albany First Nation have lower scores (30 and 33, respectively) compared to the First Nations in Ontario average (38).

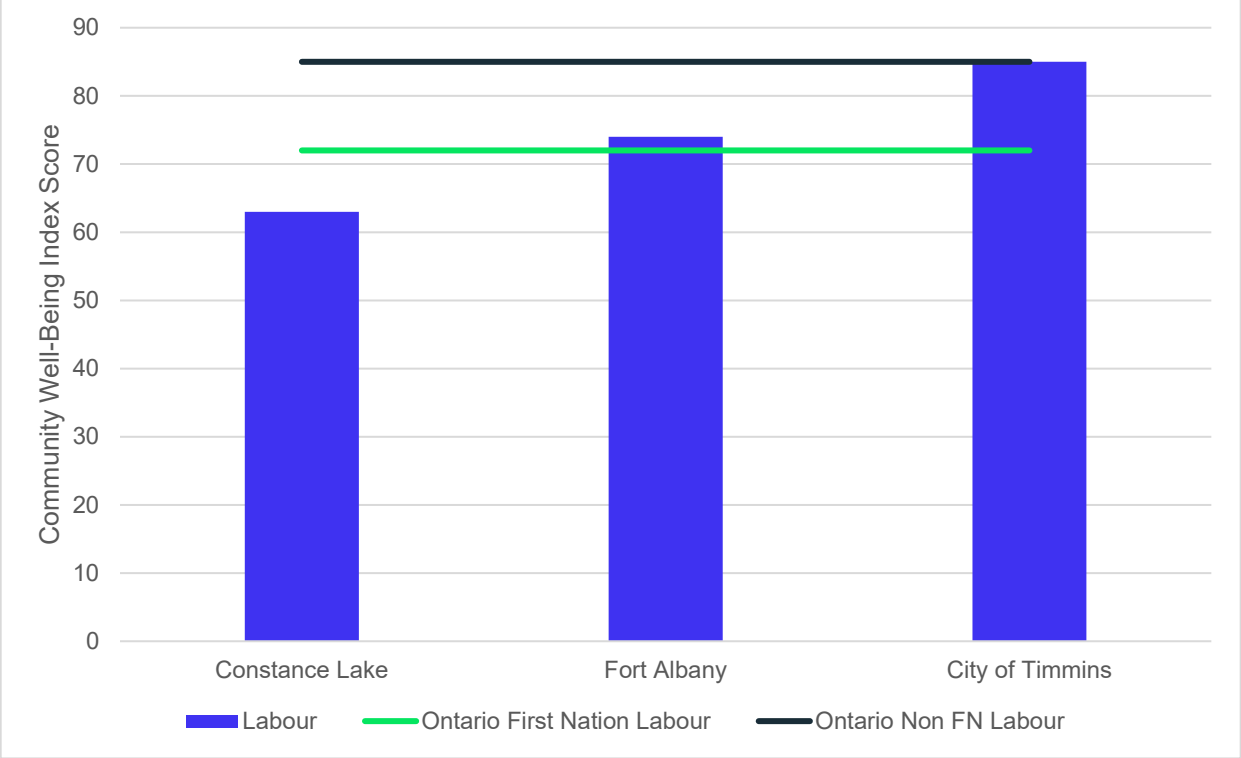
Figure 5-120: CWB Scores for Education Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Cochrane District



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The Ontario non-Indigenous average score for labour is 85, which is also the City of Timmins' score for labour, as shown on **Figure 5-121**. Constance Lake First Nation has a lower score (63) compared to the First Nations in Ontario average (72), while Fort Albany First Nation scored higher than the average (74).

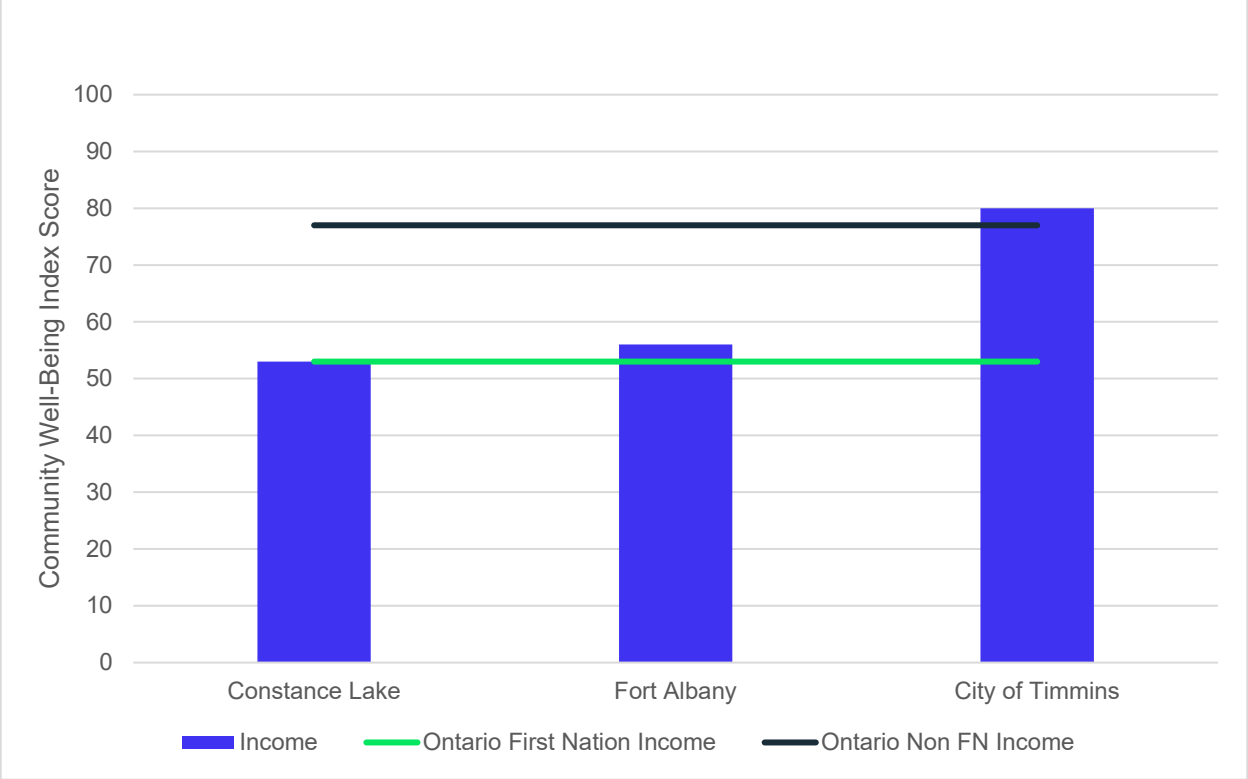
Figure 5-121: CWB Scores for Labour Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Cochrane District



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The income scores for communities in the Cochrane District are above or the same as the First Nations in Ontario or non-Indigenous averages (53 and 77, respectively), as shown on **Figure 5-122**. The City of Timmins has an income score of 80, while Constance Lake First Nation and Fort Albany First Nation have an income score of 53 and 56, respectively.

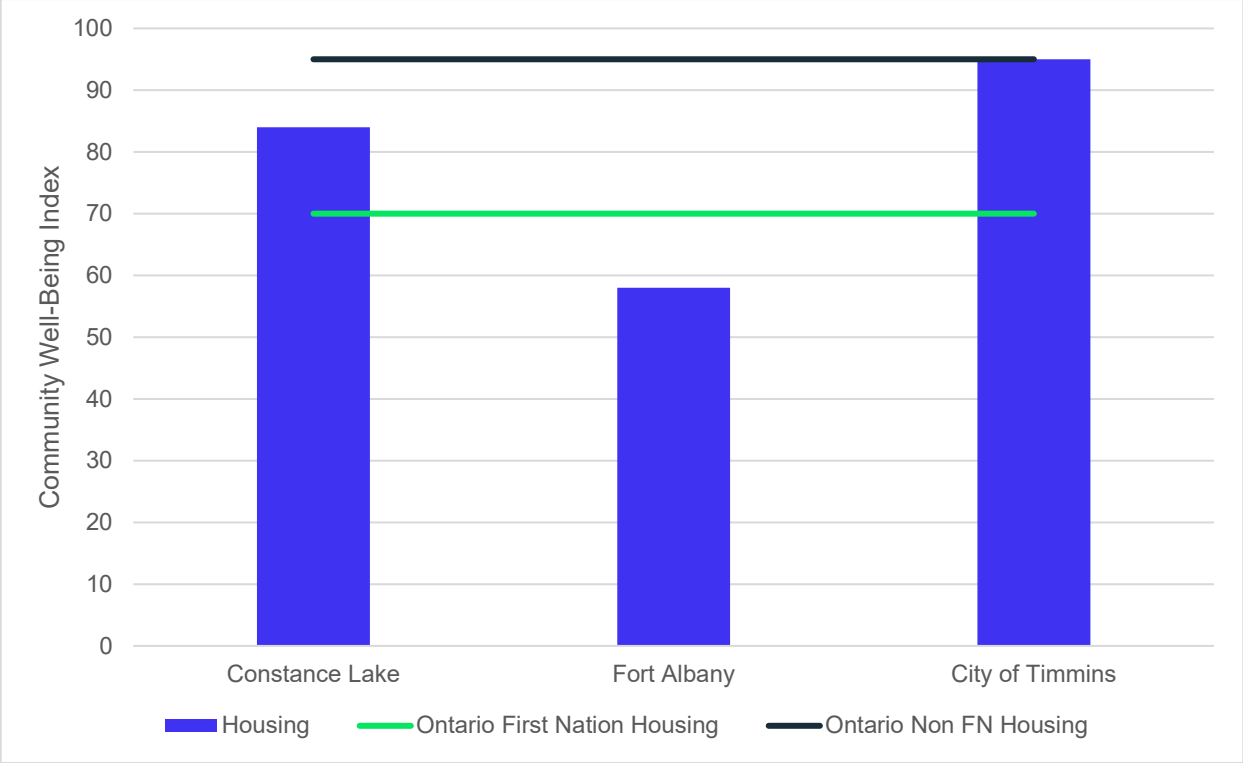
Figure 5-122: CWB Scores for Income Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Cochrane District



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The Ontario non-Indigenous average score for housing is 85, which is also the City of Timmins' score for housing, as shown on **Figure 5-123**. The First Nations in Ontario average score for housing is 70, which Constance Lake First Nation is well above (84) while Fort Albany First Nation is below (58).

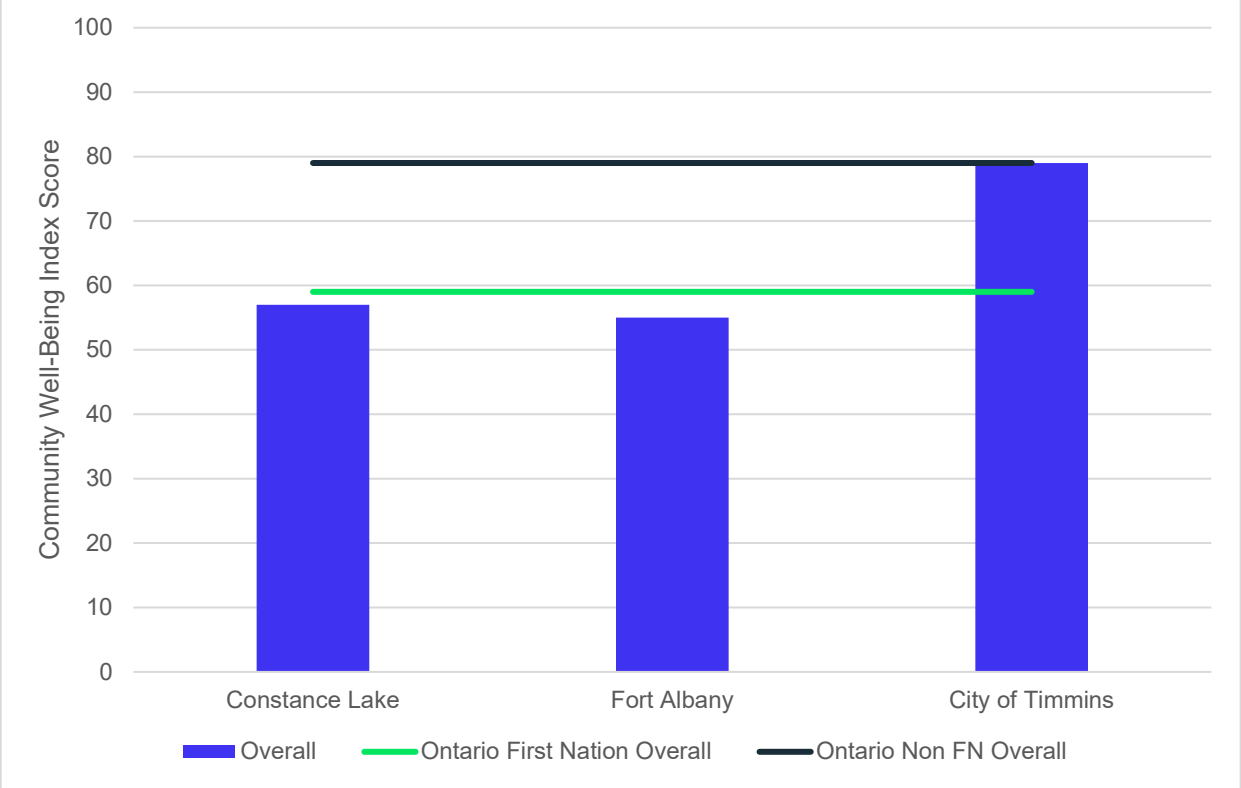
Figure 5-123: CWB Scores for Housing Across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Cochrane District



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The overall CWB score for the City of Timmins is the same as the Ontario non-Indigenous average score (79), as shown on **Figure 5-124**. For the Indigenous communities in the Cochrane District, the overall CWB score is below the First Nations in Ontario average (59), with Constance Lake First Nation and Fort Albany First Nation having overall scores of 57 and 55, respectively.

Figure 5-124: Overall CWB Scores across Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities in the Cochrane District



Source: Indigenous Services Canada, 2019b.

The City of Timmins has similar or higher CWB scores in three out of the four Socio-Economic factors (labour, income, and housing) and has an overall CWB index similar to the Ontario non-Indigenous average. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the Cochrane District have lower education scores compared to the Ontario Indigenous and non-Indigenous averages.

5.9.2 Safety

Violence-related deaths among Indigenous women are five times higher than the national average for Canadian women (Kuokkanen 2011 cited in Bond and Quinlan 2018). Indigenous women are also more likely to experience spousal abuse (Louis 2016 cited in Bond and Quinlan 2018), including various forms of financial abuse such as being denied knowledge of or access to family income (Brennan 2011 cited in Bond and Quinlan 2018). Compared to non-Indigenous mothers, Indigenous mothers have a higher frequency of self-reported abuse, which is most commonly perpetrated by a partner, husband, or boyfriend (Daoud et al., 2012). The study also showed high proportions of abuse among lone mothers (35%).

The severity of these issues is often exacerbated by the presence of industrial projects near Indigenous communities (Bond and Quinlan 2018). The risk of sexual violence, substance abuse and sexually transmitted infections due to rape and sex trafficking is particularly high for Indigenous women and girls in proximity to industrial camps (Kelly, 2017). Indigenous women enter the sex trade because of experiences with violence, sexual abuse and addiction through intergenerational trauma or through mobile workers (Arrigada 2016 cited in Bond and Quinlan 2018), such as those at industrial camps set up for resource development projects near remote Indigenous communities. A ‘rigger culture’ characterized by hyper-masculine, sexist, homophobic and apathetic attitudes and behaviours that dehumanizes Indigenous women (Bond and Quinlan, 2018) often develops and pervades these camps (Gibson et al., 2017). A

mobile, mostly male workforce is also not normally invested in, nor does it have a relationship with the local Indigenous community, resulting in behaviours that individuals would not exhibit in their home communities (Gibson et al., 2017).

In addition to rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls that is a concern with industrial camps and development projects, there are also problems with employment opportunities and economic benefits. Indigenous women are less likely to benefit from employment opportunities associated with resource development projects (Kuokkanen, 2018). In general, lack of education and training mean that many Indigenous employees get relegated to entry level positions in the extractive industries, and this is particularly true for women (Bond and Quinlan, 2018). It is also more difficult for Indigenous women to maintain and advance in their careers due to high levels of harassment, violence and bullying at work sites (MiHR N.D. cited in Bond and Quinlan 2018 p.38). Given this, the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) makes a direct call to justice in assessment and regulatory processes (MMIWG, 2019).

A report on the victimization of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada (Perrault, 2022), highlights how colonization and systemic racism impacts Indigenous people and their social and economic circumstances. Four in 10 Indigenous people that were 15 years of age or older experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult during their childhood. Moreover, 11% of Indigenous people that were 15 years of age or older have been under the legal responsibility of the government, which is 10 times higher than non-Indigenous people, and one-third of these Indigenous people experienced violence under the responsibility of the government.

Homicides involving Indigenous victims are also substantially higher when compared to homicides involving non-Indigenous victims (Perrault, 2022). According to police-reports from 2015 to 2020, homicide rates among Indigenous people (8.64 victims per 100,000 Indigenous people) were six times higher than homicide rates among non-Indigenous people (1.39 victims per 100,000 non-Indigenous people). Additionally, 13% of violence among Indigenous people was caused by an intimate partner, which is more than twice the proportion of violence among non-Indigenous people caused by an intimate partner. Despite this, safety after dark (e.g., walking alone) is not a major concern by many Indigenous people, as a majority of Indigenous people indicated that they have confidence in the local police force.

On May 2, 2023, the House of Commons adopted a motion to declare the ongoing violence against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people a national emergency (CBC, 2023). The motion also called on the government to provide an “immediate and substantial investment” for a public alert system to notify the public of missing Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people (i.e., a Red Dress Alert).

One potential issue raised about the Project is safety related to construction camps, and how these may affect vulnerable populations including women and youth. Prior to industrial camps being placed near or adjacent to the LSA communities, there is an opportunity to develop Emergency Response Preparedness Plans within the LSA communities prior to the industrial camps operation. These plans can try to decrease the impacts felt on the more vulnerable populations, including women and youth. The plans can include the physical siting of the camps and set up (if they are further away from the LSA communities, it is less accessible to workers and they would have less interaction with vulnerable populations), increase in resources for drug, alcohol and mental health support, policies regarding drugs and alcohol within the camps and how any grievances are responded to (Firelight, 2017).

5.9.2.1 Local Study Area

5.9.2.1.1 Webequie First Nation

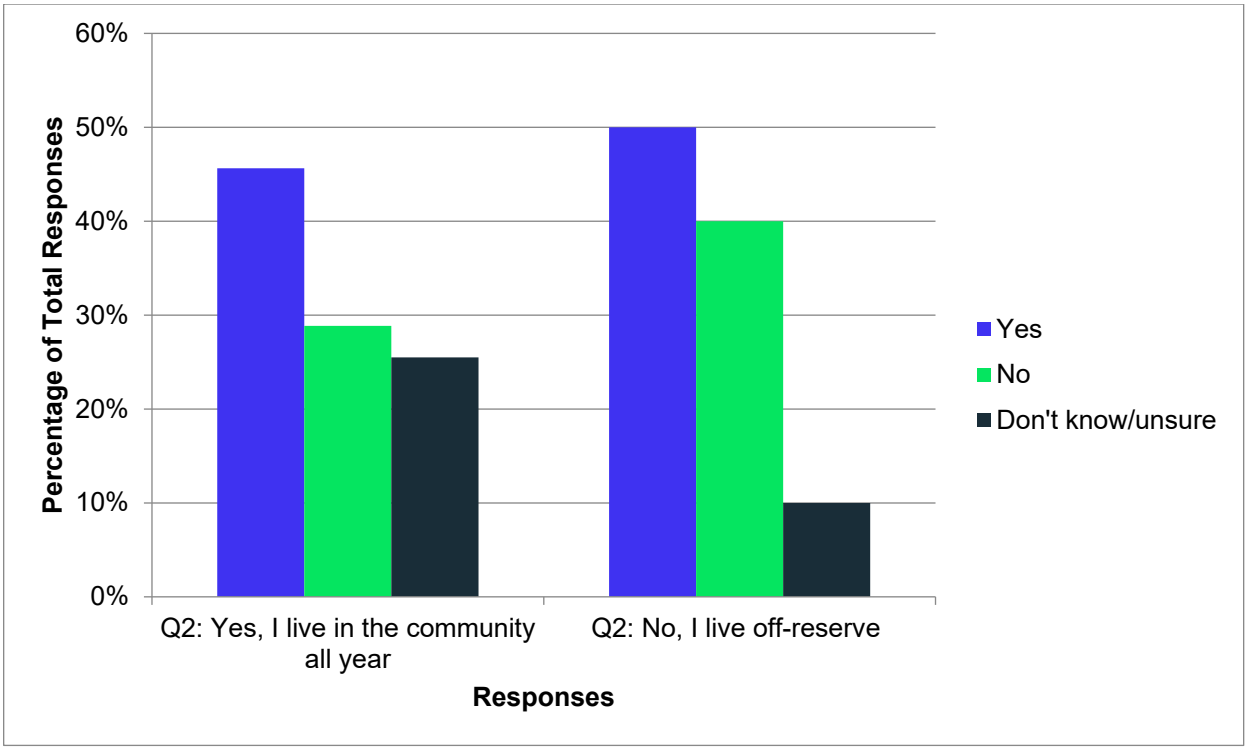
Based on the Webequie First Nation Community Well-Being Baseline Study conducted in 2014, members of the community trust one another, as 71% of households that participated in the study, and have children 12 years old or younger, indicated that they often or sometimes allow their child to play outside without any supervision (Webequie First Nation 2014). Additionally, 73% of households that participated in the study indicated that they had not experienced

house vandalization within the past year; the 27% that reported having experienced vandalism indicated that it was a one-time occurrence and that multiple incidents of vandalism were experienced by a small minority of the community. According to the WSR Community Coordinator, lateral violence is also present in the community, especially in the workplace (SNC-Lavalin, 2022e).

According to the Webequie First Nation's Health Director, there are services available for members of the community to seek family services/aide, including the Family Resource Centre, which is located on the Webequie First Nation reserve for mothers or children dealing with violence in the community and the Tikinagan Child and Family Services (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

When asked whether individuals had safety concerns with the Project and potential future mining development in the area, 45.6% of responses from those living on reserve and 50% of responses from those living off reserve indicated that they had safety concerns, as shown on **Figure 5-125**.

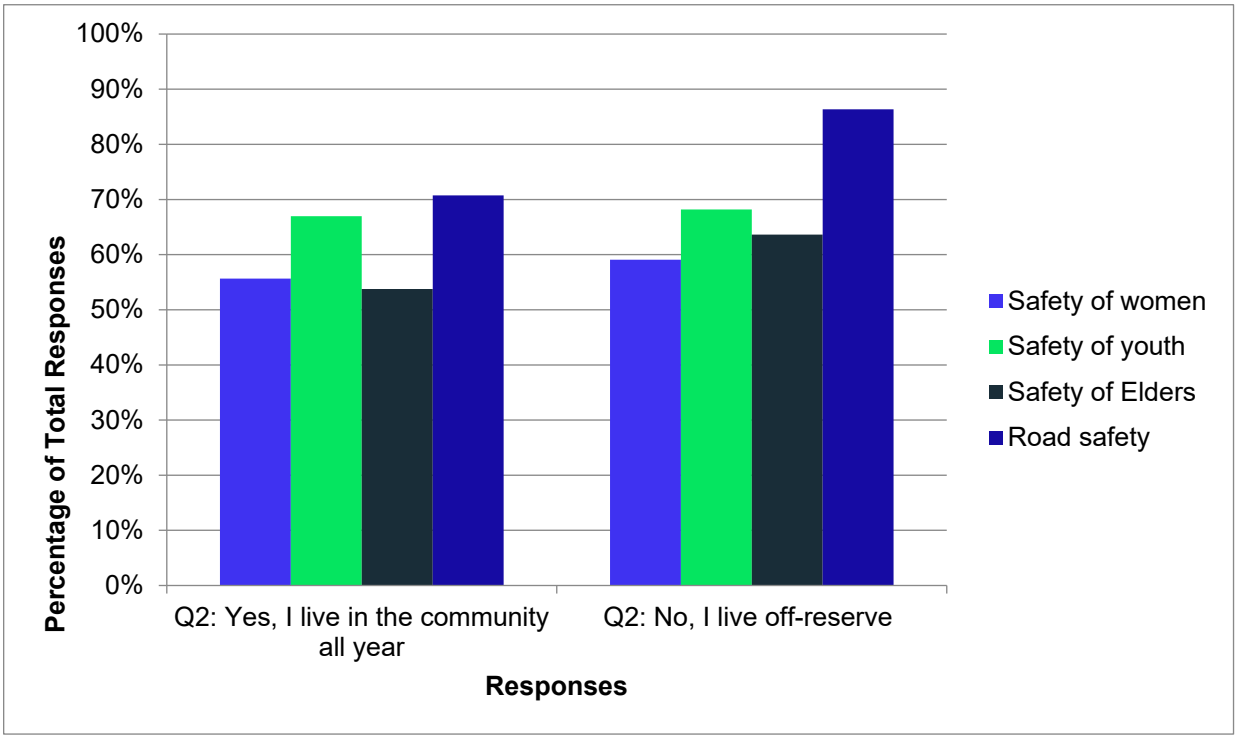
Figure 5-125: Survey Results from Respondents When Asked If They Have Safety Concerns About the Project



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

As a follow-up question, individuals were asked what these safety concerns were. Respondents identified four main safety concerns: safety of women, safety of youth, safety of Elders, and road safety, as shown on **Figure 5-126**:. Respondents were encouraged to identify more than one safety concern. A total of 128 responses were collected for this question (106 responses from individuals that live on reserve and 22 responses from individuals that live off the reserve). Out of the 128 responses collected, 94 of the responses (73.4%) indicated that road safety is a concern making it the most frequent safety concern among responses, with 75 of the responses from individuals that live on reserve and 19 responses from individuals that live off-reserve. Safety of youth was the second most identified safety concern by respondents, with 86 responses having included safety of youth as a safety concern (71 from those that live on reserve and 15 responses from those that live off-reserve).

Figure 5-126: Safety Concerns Identified by the Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

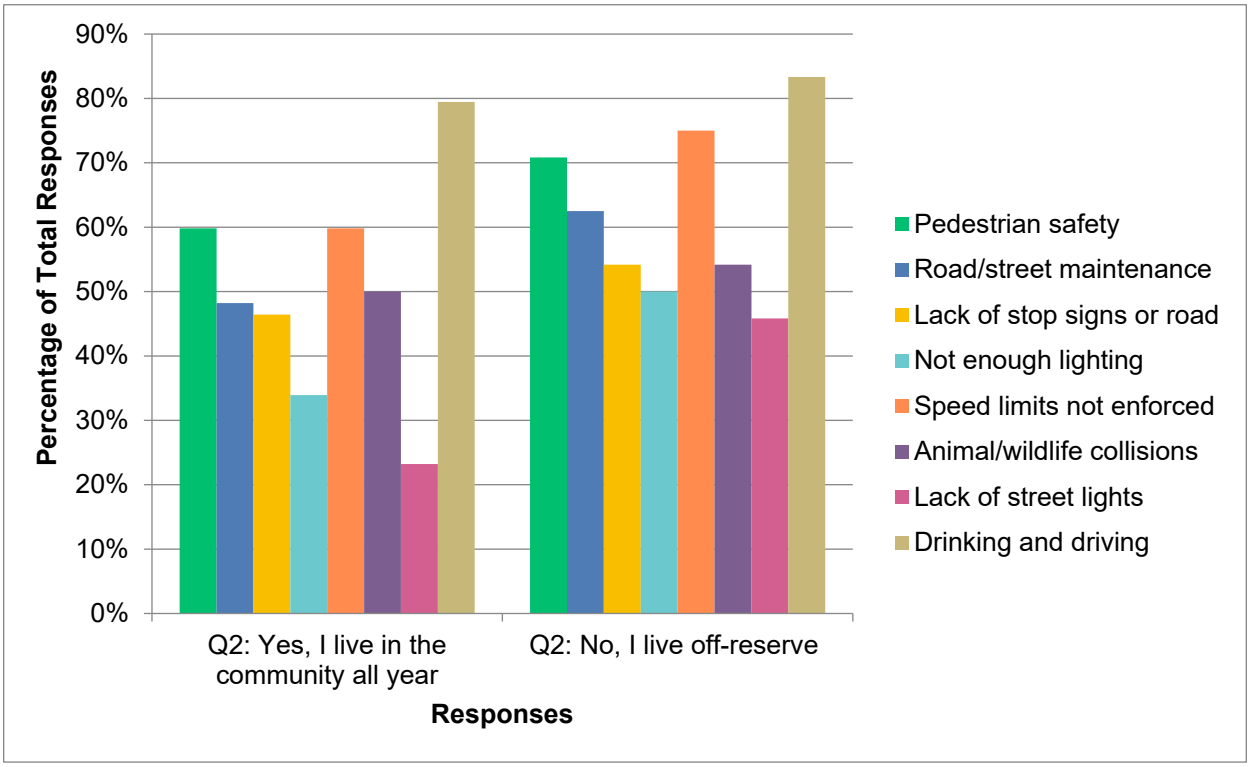
To further understand why road safety was considered by most to be a safety concern, a follow-up question asked respondents to state specific road safety concerns. The responses included: pedestrian safety, road/street maintenance, lack of stop signs or roads, not enough lighting, speed limits not enforced, animal/wildlife collisions, lack of streetlights, and drinking and driving, as shown on **Figure 5-127**.

A total of 112 responses were collected from individuals living on reserve and 24 responses from individuals living off-reserve. The most identified road safety concern was drinking and driving; 79.5% of responses from individuals that live on reserve included drinking and driving (89 responses) and 83.3% of responses from individuals that live off-reserve included drinking and driving (20 responses).

Based on data collected from the women's focus group, similar concerns were mentioned including the need for check points and approval from the Chief or Council for road use, checking drivers' license when leaving the community, road awareness signs, streetlights, signs for hunting areas, and more workshops on missing and murdered Indigenous women (Webequie First Nation, 2023a.

There is an opportunity to address the safety issues that were identified by Webequie First Nation members through targeted educational awareness, discussions with the community throughout the Project and the preparation of an Emergency Response Preparedness Plan. As road safety has been identified as a potential risk for this Project, Webequie First Nation has the opportunity to implement additional mitigation measures prior to construction of the Project to improve overall road safety within their community.

Figure 5-127: Road Safety Concerns Identified by the Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

5.9.2.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

According to the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, there were 182 police services or detachments responsible for serving Indigenous communities in Canada (i.e., communities where more than half of the residents are Indigenous) (Allen, 2020). These 182 police services had some of the highest crime rates among 1,200 police detachments in Canada, with Indigenous communities having six times higher crime rates than non-Indigenous populations. Ontario had one of the lowest crime rates reported in Indigenous communities (along with British Columbia).

Table 5-101 provides a generalized summary of regional crime rates based on available information and as reported by the police services in the RSA. The data are reported as rates of 100,000 people. Some First Nations communities are serviced by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The OPP is a division of the Ministry of Solicitor General and is the largest police service in Ontario, and second largest police service in Canada (Ontario Provincial Police (OPP, 2023). Part of the OPP's responsibilities for Indigenous communities is to provide administrative support for First Nation Policing programs. The Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) reported the highest rates of crime across categories. NAPS area provides police patrols within Northern Ontario and serve 34 First Nation communities (Ketonen, 2023). NAPS often do not have the same resources that other police forces have with limited staff, budget and resources (Thompson, 2017). In 2017, Public Safety Canada outlined that crime rates in First Nations communities were four times higher than the average municipal rate (Thompson, 2017).

Table 5-101: Crime Statistics in Indigenous Communities and Municipalities for 2021, as Reported by the Police Service Responsible for that Area

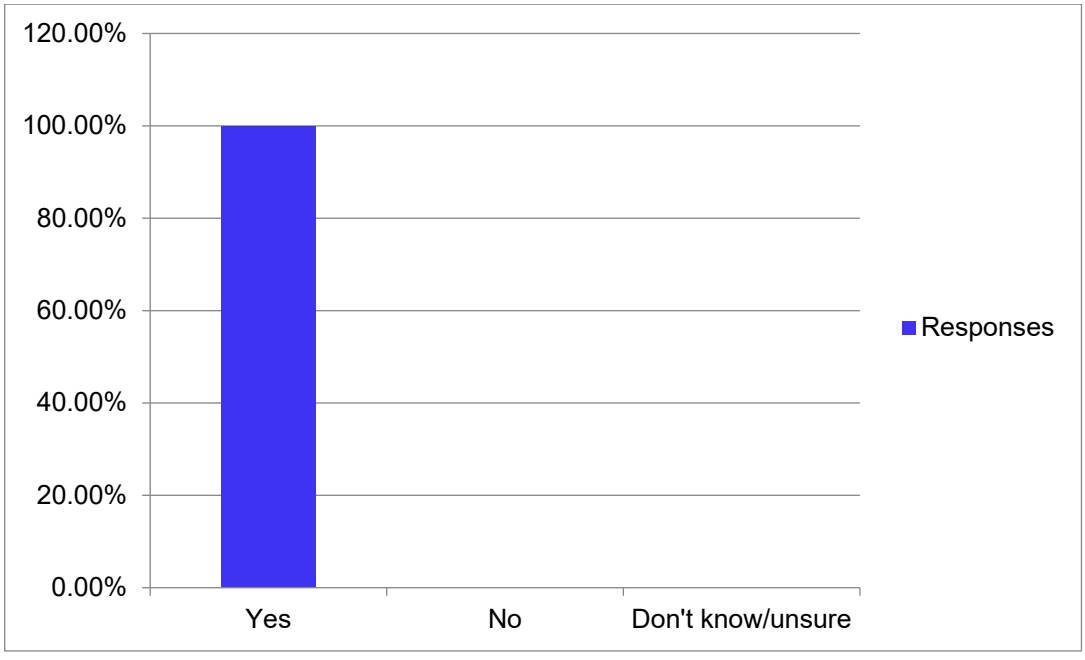
Municipalities	Total Crime, Rate, 2021*	Total Violent Crime, Rate, 2021*	Total Sexual Assault, Rate, Level 1, 2021*	Total Drug Violations, Rate, 2021*
Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, municipal	26,412	9,421	553	649
Anishinabek, municipal	14,567	4,646	193	435
Kenora District, OPP, municipal	12,018	2,838	264	301
Thunder Bay District, OPP, rural	4,358	1,395	155	224
James Bay, OPP, rural	10,911	3,948	202	348

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022b.

Note: *Data are reported as rates of 100,000 people.

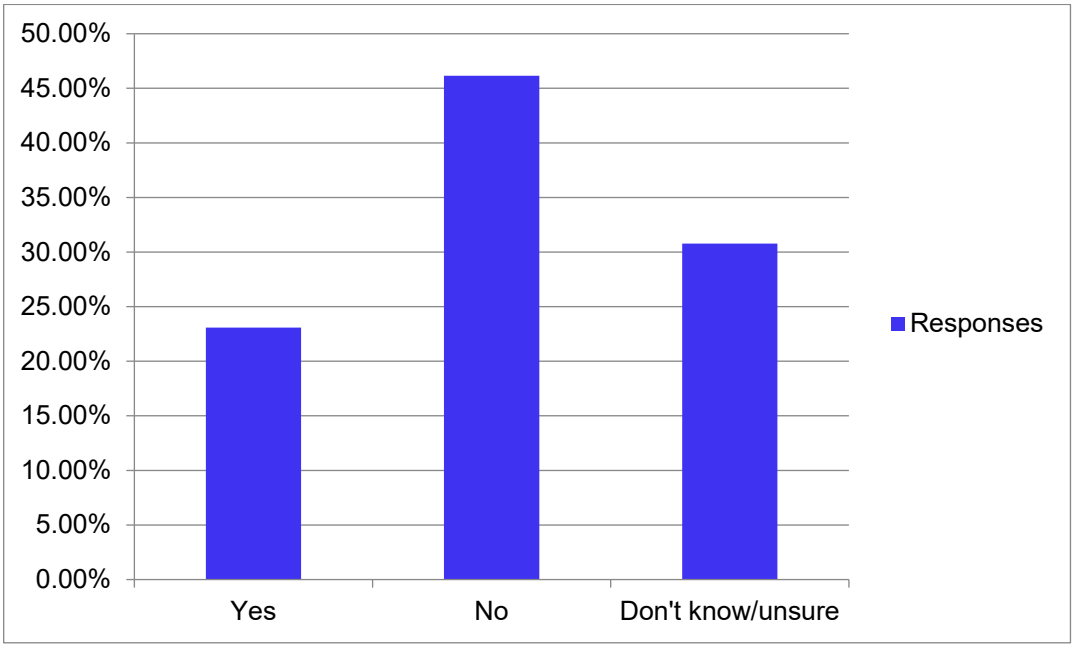
The online survey on the safety indicators was conducted for other communities located in the Local Study Area including Weenusk and Marten Falls First Nation. The individuals were asked about their safety concerns and nature of these concerns which are related to the WSR project. The first question was about if the community members have safety concerns related to the WSR project. As the results presented in **Figure 5-128** and **Figure 5-129** below indicate, all of the members of Weenusk First Nation community who had participated in the survey had safety concerns related to WSR project. Its in case that only 23.08% of the Marten Falls First Nation community members have the same concern. Nearly half of the Marten Falls First Nation community members (46.15%) does not have any safety concerns while 30.77% are not sure if they have safety concerns towards this project.

Figure 5-128: Survey Results from Respondents in Weenusk First Nation Community When Asked If They Have Safety Concerns About the Project – WSR Socio-Economic Survey (2022)



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

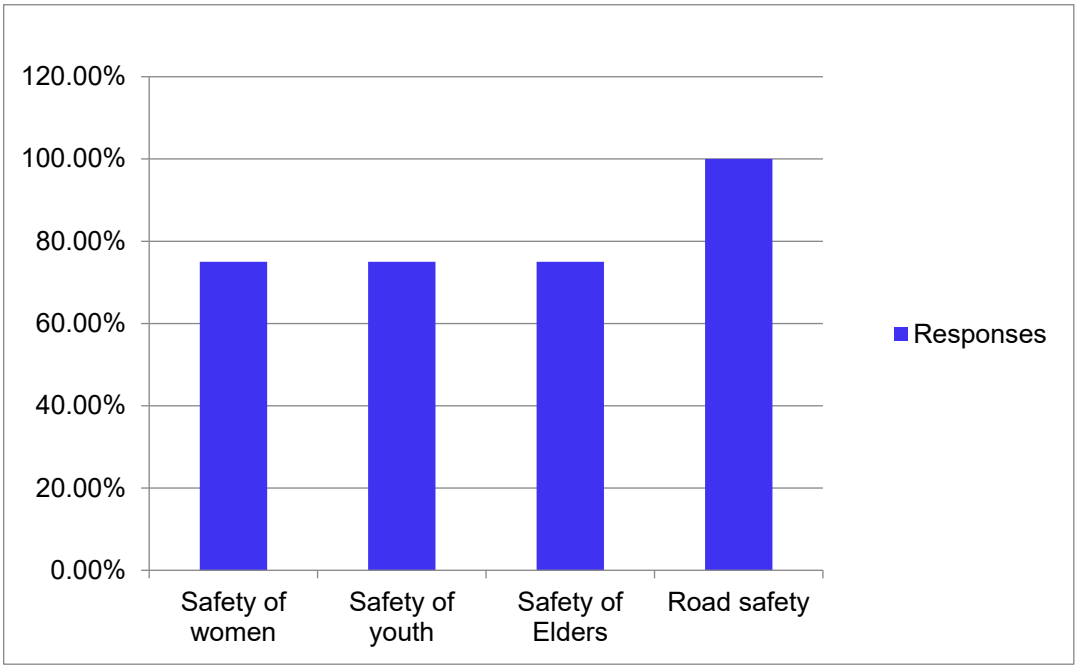
Figure 5-129: Survey Results from Respondents in Marten Falls First Nation Community When Asked If They Have Safety Concerns About the Project – WSR Socio-Economic Survey (2022)



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

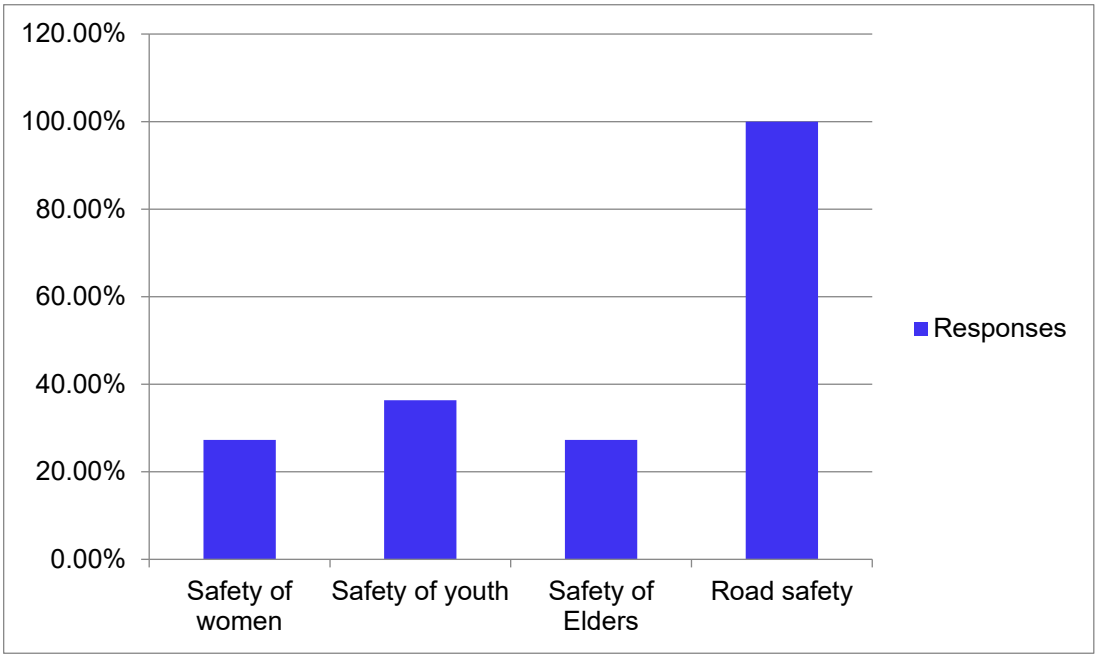
The respondents also were asked about the type of the safety concerns they might have about the WSR project. As the results indicate in **Figure 5-130** and **Figure 5-131** below, 75% of the Weenusk First Nation community members have concerns on the Women Safety which is significantly higher comparing to the same value indicated by Marten Falls First Nation community members which is 27.27%. Meanwhile 75% of the Weenusk First Nation community have concerns about Youth Safety, its in case that only 36.36% of the Marten Falls First Nation community members have the similar concern. The Elder's Safety was another factor surveyed across both communities and the results revealed that 75% of the Weenusk and 27.27% of the Marten Falls First Nations communities have concerns related to it. As well both communities have 100% of concern regarding the Road Safety factor.

Figure 5-130: Safety Concerns Identified by the Weenusk First Nation Community (2022)



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

Figure 5-131: Safety Concerns Identified by the Marten Falls First Nation Community (2022)

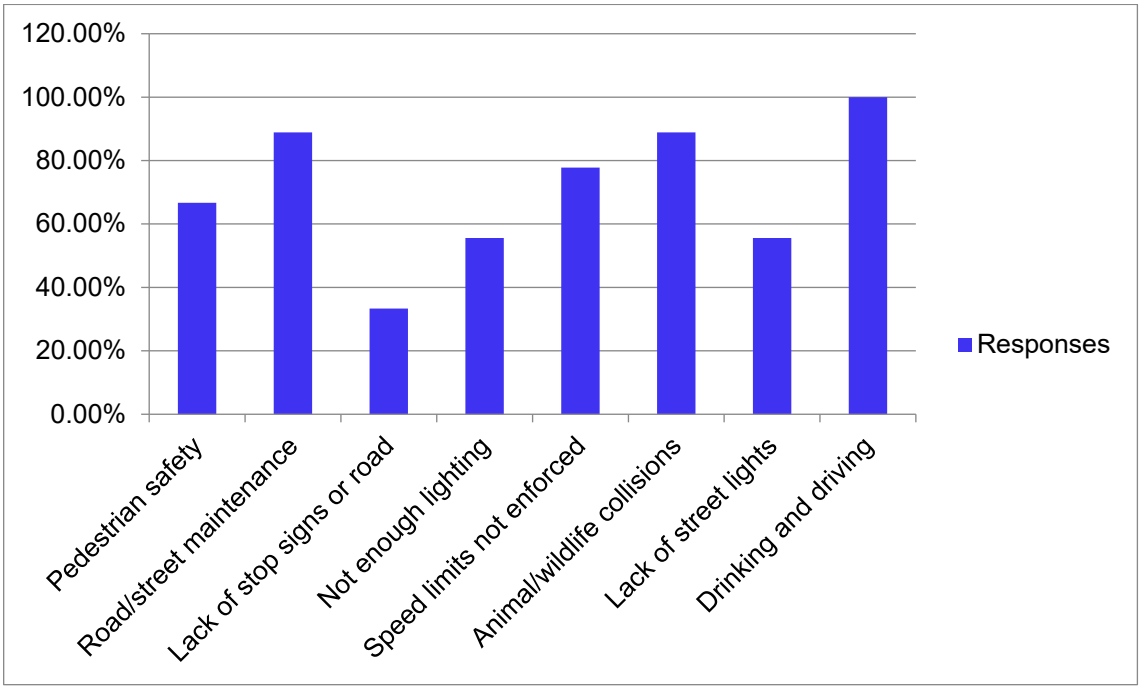


Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

Continuing the same survey, the respondents were asked about details of their safety concerns. Pedestrian Safety was one of the indicators which Weenusk First Nation community members have 66.67% of concern about it which is higher comparing to same value for the Marten Falls First Nation community which is 41.67%. The Weenusk First Nation have 88.89% of concern towards Road/Street Maintenance which is also higher comparing to Marten Falls First Nation with 66.67% of concern. The lack of stop signs on roads was another safety concern for both communities which Weenusk

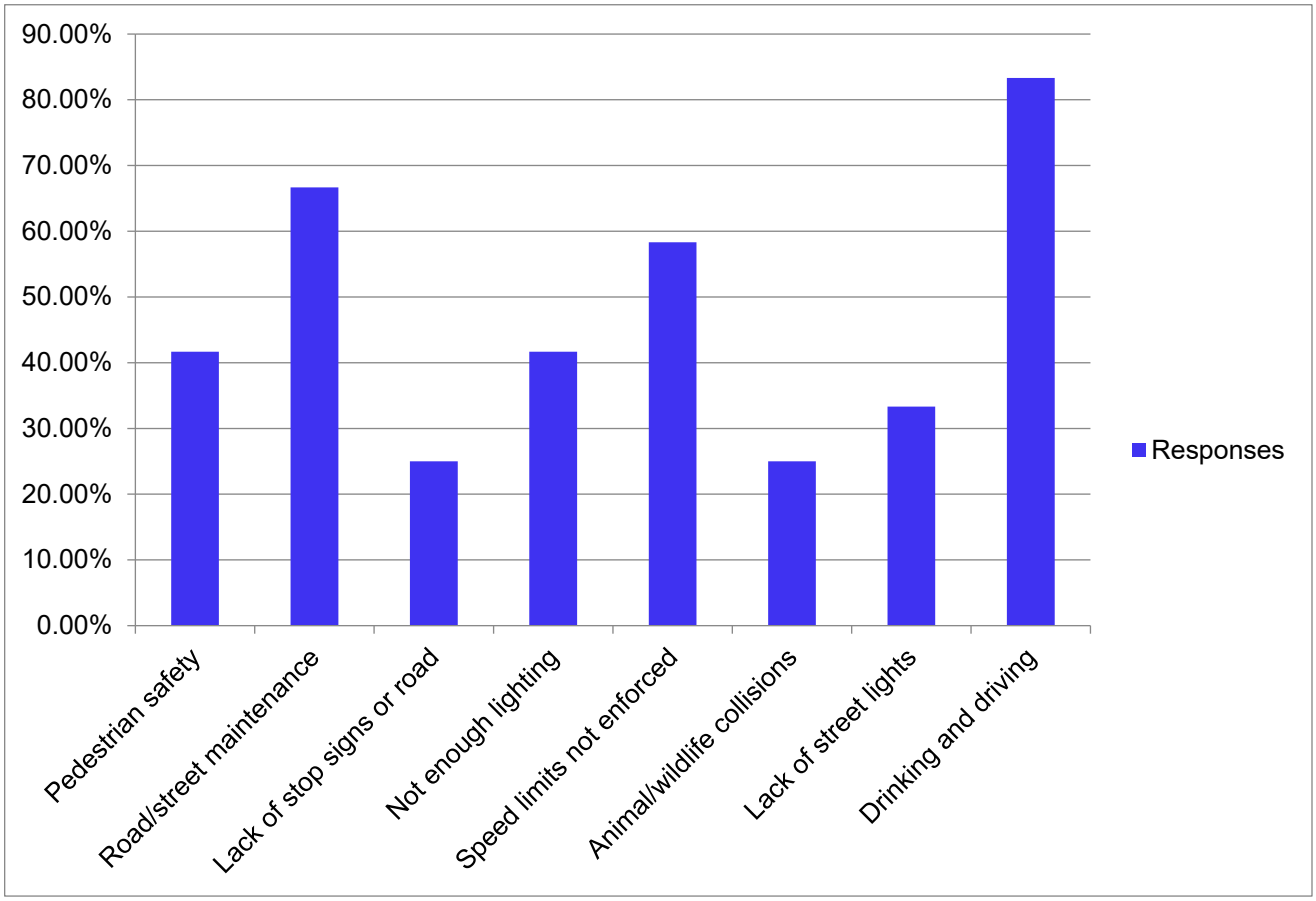
First Nation community has 33.33% of concern rate which is slightly higher comparing to the same value in Marten Falls First Nations community (25%). Communities were also concerned about the 'Lack of enough lighting' with 55.56% of concern rate for Weenusk First Nation which is higher than Marten Falls with 41.67% rate of concern. Weenusk First Nation community had higher rate of concern (77.78%) for the "Speed limits not enforced" comparing to Marten Falls (58.33%). The Weenusk First Nation community had a high rate of concern (88.89%) regarding the "Animal/wildlife collisions" comparing to the same value stated by the Marten Falls First Nation community (25%). Similarly, Weenusk First Nation community had higher concerns regarding "Lack of street lights" and "Drinking and driving" which were equal to (55.56%) and (100%) respectively, comparing to the same values indicated by the Marten Falls First Nation community as 33.33% and 83.33%.

Figure 5-132: Road Safety Concerns Identified by the Weenusk First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

Figure 5-133: Road Safety Concerns Identified by the Marten Falls First Nation Community



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022

5.9.2.1.3 GBA+ Considerations

Understanding the current state of community safety in Webequie First Nation and protective and emergency services helps to recognize the types of harms the community faces, identify influences on crime and violence, and identify victimized groups. Crime and violence statistics are not available at the Webequie First Nation community level. Rates of gender-based violence[22] and family violence[23] could not be obtained. Thus, existing conditions largely rely on information shared by knowledge holders, focus group participants, and survey data.

Webequie knowledge holders shared that issues within the community include vandalism and lateral violence, including family violence, which can largely be linked to intergenerational trauma and related mental health and addictions challenges (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). The Webequie First Nation Well-Being Survey (Webequie First Nation, 2014) reported that 27% of households had their house vandalised in the past year. Vandalism in Webequie has been known to be carried out by youth, as they face boredom, isolation, and overcrowding and may use vandalism as well as substances as a way to cope with their reality (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

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22 Gender-based violence is violence against an individual because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity, or perceived gender (Government of Canada, 2023b).

23 Family violence is any form of abuse, mistreatment, or neglect that a child or adult experiences from a family member, or from someone with whom they have an intimate relationship (Government of Canada, 2022).

Lateral violence is a cycle of abuse which effects Indigenous peoples, who may carry out violence and abuse on other Indigenous people as it was inflicted upon them, a long-lasting effect of the colonialization and oppression which Indigenous peoples faced (NWAC, 2011). Those most vulnerable to lateral violence are Elders, women, and children (NWAC, 2011). Knowledge holders noted that lateral violence in Webequie is a particular issue in the workplace and that family violence is also present in the community (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

Webequie First Nation members have expressed concern for the safety of women and girls due to the WSR Project (SNC-Lavalin, 2023; 2022a). Industrial projects and man camps are known to have disproportionate effects on rates of gender-based violence on Indigenous women and girls, with increased rates of sexual violence, substance use, and STIs occurring for women and girls who work and live in proximity of these projects (Bond & Quinlan, 2018). Temporary workforces are generally disconnected from the local community in which they temporarily work and reside, which can increase their participation in risky behaviours including alcohol, substance use, and sex which can lead to sexual assault and violence against women and girls who live and work near such projects (Bond & Quinlan, 2018). Webequie women and girls who may be particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence and sexual exploitation include those of low income, those with low educational attainment, and those living with addictions (Daoud et al., 2012; CRIAW, 2014).

Results from the Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a) indicated that Webequie resident respondents feel that high rates of substance abuse (72.4%), bullying or cyber-bullying (64.8%), high rates of domestic (family) violence (43.5%) and child negligence (40%) are the largest safety concerns in the community. When asked what their safety concerns are related to the WSR, Webequie resident respondents indicated road safety (70.8%) and the safety of youth (66.8%) were their two largest concerns.

Webequie First Nation Well-Being Survey (Webequie First Nation, 2014) results suggest community members trust one another, with 71% of households with children under 12 years old reporting they often or sometimes allow their children to play outside unsupervised. Webequie community members have expressed they feel safety in the community may be changing as a result of drug and alcohol issues. Knowledge holders shared that they worry when they send their child out, something that was not a source of worry in the past, not only a result of a lack of traditional teachings and preparedness of younger generations, but also dangers associated with drugs, alcohol, and methods of transportation in the community (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

Protective and emergency services in Webequie First Nation include Crisis Intervention, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS), Family Resource Centre, and Peacekeepers. Crisis Intervention helps support community members affected by family violence, suicide, and other crisis situations, either on-site or over the phone and can dispatch police if necessary. The service also facilitates family meetings to explore potential solutions for their crises, coordinates crisis plans for suicide and domestic violence intervention, and provides resources and referrals (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023a). NAPS has a detachment in Webequie, with a police station on-reserve and two local Webequie members serving as constables (NorthWest Healthline, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, 2023). The Family Resource Centre is for women and children suffering from violence (SNC-Lavalin, 2023). Peacekeepers help control drugs and alcohol in the community (Webequie First Nation, 2021). One knowledge holder noted that sometimes police intervention is not well-received, and that it can be more helpful for non-police community members to intervene in a situation due to some police officers coming from outside the community and lacking local community knowledge (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

Webequie does not have a formal fire service but does have a volunteer fire department. Please see **Table 5-84** for details on services provided by the volunteer fire department (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023d). It is noted that existing fire hydrants in the community were said to not be functioning as of 2019 (Webequie First Nation, 2019a). If Webequie members require emergency medical services, an air ambulance is dispatched to the community and most often transports patients to Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay, or Winnipeg (211 Ontario North, Webequie First Nation, 2023b).Presence of the WSR Project could affect community safety and perceptions of community safety in Webequie through a potential increase in gender-based violence, family violence, and transportation-related safety

issues (e.g., drunk driving). These changes may occur through the presence of camps, an increase in incomes, and driving on the all-season road.

5.9.2.2 Regional Study Area

5.9.2.2.1 Kenora District

Kenora District in Ontario faces significant safety challenges, particularly related to crime and substance use. According to the Ontario Provincial Police, the crime rate in Kenora is notably higher than both the provincial and national averages. In 2020, Kenora's total crime rate was 8,955 incidents per 100,000 people, which is 112% higher than the national average (Ministry of Transportation, 2024). Violent crime rates in Kenora were 2,299 incidents per 100,000 people, 121% higher than the national average (Ministry of Transportation, 2024). Property crimes were also elevated, with 6,656 incidents per 100,000 people, 109% higher than the national average (Ministry of Transportation, 2024).

Public safety concerns have prompted emergency city council meetings, with local businesses reporting issues such as vandalism, theft, and substance abuse affecting staff and customers (MLITSD, 2023). The district also has one of the highest rates of homelessness in Ontario, further complicating safety and social issues (KDSB, 2022).

5.9.2.2.2 Thunder Bay District

Thunder Bay District in Ontario faces significant safety challenges, particularly related to crime. According to Statistics Canada, Thunder Bay had a violent crime rate of 1,545 incidents per 100,000 residents in 2018, which is 72% higher than the provincial average of 899 incidents per 100,000 residents (Statistics Canada, 2018).

Additionally, Thunder Bay has a higher rate of violence against women compared to other areas in Ontario (Statistics Canada, 2016). The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Thunder Bay, mandated by the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, 2019, aims to proactively address locally identified priority risks to community safety and well-being (City of Thunder Bay, 2018).

5.9.2.2.3 Cochrane District

Cochrane District in Ontario faces notable safety challenges, particularly related to crime and road safety. According to the Ontario Provincial Police, Cochrane District had a total crime rate of 6,789 incidents per 100,000 people in 2021, which is higher than the provincial average (MLITSD, 2023). Violent crime rates were 1,234 incidents per 100,000 people, also above the provincial average (MLITSD, 2023).

Additionally, the Ontario Road Safety Annual Report indicates that Cochrane District experienced 245 traffic collisions in 2021, resulting in 15 fatalities and 120 injuries (Ministry of Transportation, 2024).

6 Economic Environment

The Economic environment is described from the perspectives of the local and regional economy within the Socio-Economic Environment LSA and RSA. The Socio-Economic Environment LSA and RSA are defined as follows:

- Local Study Area:
  - Webequie First Nation;
  - Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities:
    - Marten Falls First Nation;
    - Nibinamik First Nation;
    - Neskantaga First Nation;
    - Kasabonika Lake First Nation;
    - Eabametoong First Nation;
    - Attawapiskat First Nation; and
    - Weenusk First Nation.
- Regional Study Area:
  - Kenora District;
  - Thunder Bay District; and
  - Cochrane District.

For the purposes of developing the economic environment baseline, the data has been provided based on the district.

The local and regional economy is described in terms of the following:

- Labour force and employment;
- Overall economy;
- Business environment; and
- Public and Indigenous community finances.

The baseline information was developed through a desktop review of existing information, primarily including Census of Population, economic database information such as Lightcast[24] data, and official municipal forecasts. Where available, additional information from knowledge holder interviews, focus groups and a Socio-Economic survey is provided.

6.1 Labour Force and Employment

Indigenous people are under-represented in Canada's labour market (Anderson, 2019). This section describes the existing conditions of labour force and employment in the LSA and RSA using the following indicators:

- Labour force characteristics, including employment, age, population, labour force participation, unemployment, barriers to employment, time spent on unpaid domestic work;

[24] Lightcast products provide detailed information about occupations, skills in demand, and career pathways, providing labor market insight to employers, educational institutions, and government agencies.

- Education and training attainment, including highest certificate, diploma, or degree, field of study, occupations, training opportunities; and
- Labour income, including income, sources of income.

Tradition is an important cultural aspect of Indigenous communities who are very connected to the lands on which they live.

The traditional economy is an important cultural and economic aspect of community life. Unfortunately, traditional economy activities are not widely reported on and therefore it is difficult to quantify the economic impact they have within Webequie First Nation and the communities in the LSA.

6.1.1 Local Study Area

6.1.1.1 Labour Force Characteristics

The working age population (15 to 64 years) in Webequie First Nation is projected to decrease over the projection period from 420 as of 2021 to 310 by 2043, based on recent Census of Population trends. This is due to an aging population and is a population trend that can be seen across Canada. There is a potential that it could be further impacted by people leaving the reserve; however, this is not something captured within the Census.

Although most people who want to be employed have a job, the participation rate[25] within the community is low in comparison to Ontario. In 2021, the participation rate in Ontario was 63% while Webequie had a rate of 38% for the same year.

According to Statistics Canada, the participation rate is the number of labour force participants expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, etc.) is the number of labour force participants in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group (Statistics Canada, 2021, 2025)

In 2022, three occupational categories made up over 70% of the jobs in Webequie First Nation:

- Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services;
- Business, finance, and administrative occupations; and
- Sales and services occupations.

The workforce in Webequie is not well-prepared for direct involvement in construction projects, due to the limited number of jobs in this field and the small size of the labor force. This may be because the community has not had construction jobs available in the past. However, if the upcoming construction jobs offer competitive salaries, this situation might change. The working age population in the other LSA Indigenous communities is projected to increase over the projection period from 2,820 as of 2021 to 3,677 by 2043 (Statistics Canada, 2022a). The aggregate unemployment rate for the other LSA Indigenous communities is slightly higher than Ontario at 13% compared to 12%. The highest rates of unemployment occur in Marten Falls First Nation and Weenusk First Nation with 31% and 28%, respectively (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The aggregate participation rate for the other LSA Indigenous communities is 46%, which is 17% lower than Ontario. The highest participation rate out of the seven communities occurs in Weenusk First Nation at 71%, while the lowest occurs in Attawapiskat First Nation at 35% (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

[25] The participation rate is an estimate of an economy's active workforce. It is the number of people ages 16 and over who are in the workforce divided by the total working age population.

In 2022, three occupational categories made up nearly 70% of jobs (Lightcast, 2023a):

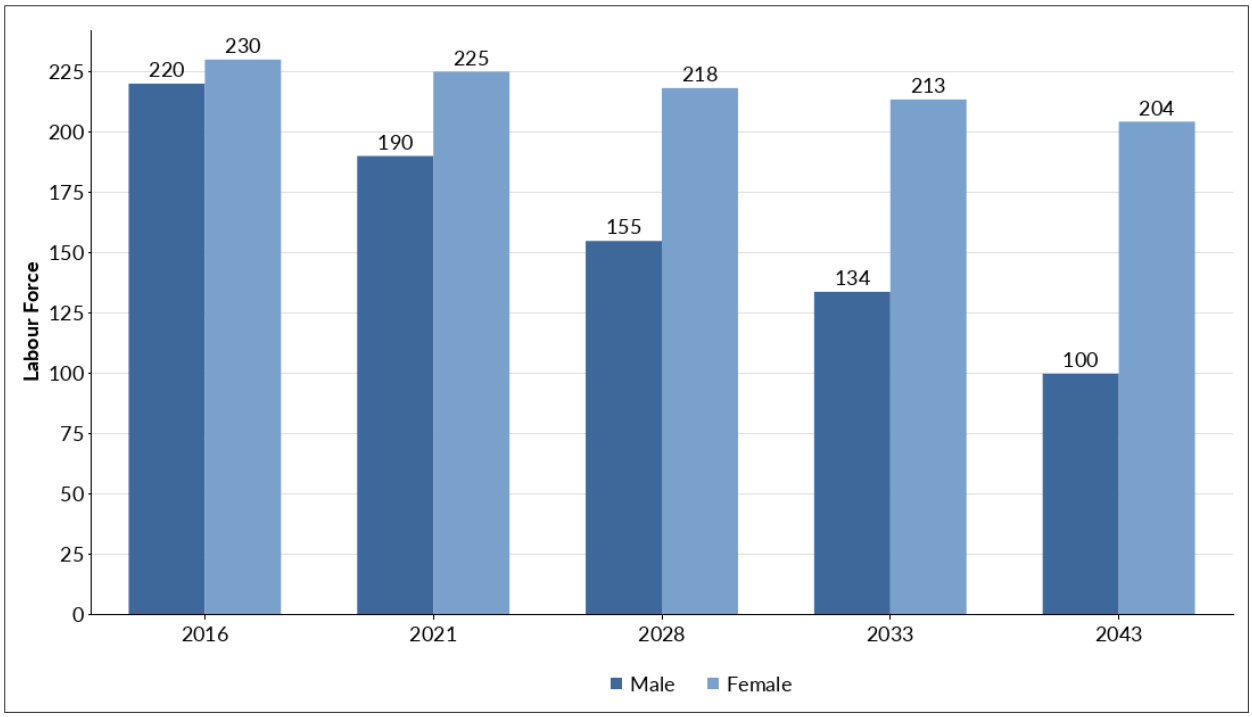
- Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services;
- Business, finance, and administrative occupations; and
- Sales and services occupations.

6.1.1.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Figure 6-1 and **Table 6-1** present the forecasted working age population in Webequie First Nation over the projection period: 2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, and 2043. The values for 2016 and 2021 are published statistics from the 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census of Population (Statistics Canada, 2017, 2022a). The values for 2028, 2023, and 2043 were forecasted based on the 2016 and 2021 data as outlined in **Section 5.1.1.1**. The working age population is defined as those aged 15 to 64. Projected trends of working age population in Webequie First Nation are summarized as follows:

- The working age population is projected to decrease over the projection period; and
- Based off current growth trends, the total working age population is forecasted to decrease by 140 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 31%.

Figure 6-1: Projected Working Age Population for Webequie First Nation (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-1: Projected Working Age Population in Webequie First Nation (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	450	100%	220	48.9%	230	51.1%
2021	420	100%	190	45.2%	225	53.6%
2028	381	100%	155	40.6%	218	57.2%
2033	356	100%	134	37.6%	213	60.0%
2043	310	100%	100	32.2%	204	65.9%

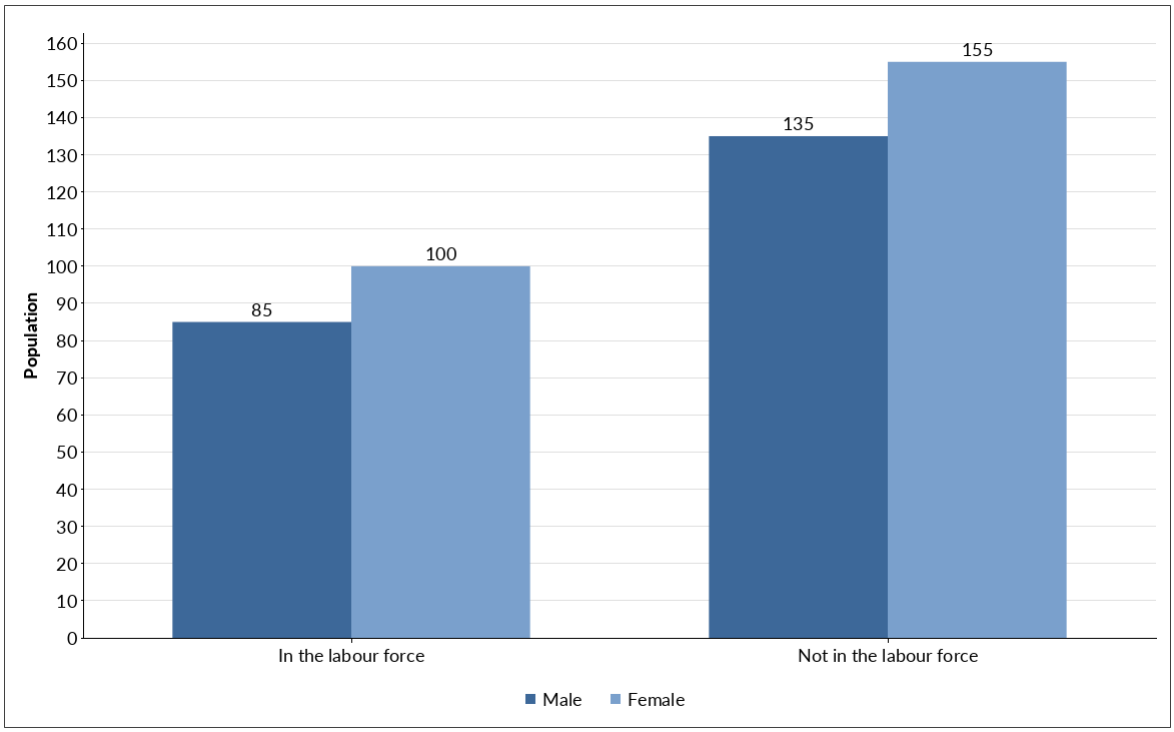
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 6-2 and **Table 6-2** present the breakdown of the population in the labour force and those not in the labour force for Webequie First Nation in 2021.

- The majority of the Webequie population was not in the labour force at 61.7%. Females account for approximately 53% of this group while males account for 47%;
- The participation rate for the total working age population was 37.9%;
- The participation rate for males was 39.5%; and
- The participation rate for females was 39.2%.

Figure 6-2: Labour Force Participation in Webequie First Nation (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-2: Labour Force Participation in Webequie First Nation (2021)

Labour Force Participation	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
In the labour force	180	38.3%	85	38.6%	100	39.2%
Not in the labour force	290	61.7%	135	61.4%	155	60.8%
Total	**470**	**100%**	**220**	**100%**	**255**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-3 presents the breakdown of the employment status for those classified as being in the labour force for Webequie First Nation in 2021. Of the population classified as being in the labour force, 94.6% were employed making the unemployment rate 5.5%. This means the majority of the population looking for a job had one. Although their labour force participation was lower than the Ontario average, the unemployment rate was roughly on par with Ontario.

Table 6-3: Employment Status of Labour Force Webequie (2021)

Labour Force Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Employed	175	94.6%	80	100%	95	100%
Unemployed	10	5.4%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**185**	**100%**	**80**	**100%**	**95**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-4 presents the number of jobs by 1-digit National Occupational Classification (NOC)[26] code for 2018 and 2022 in Webequie. Business, finance, and administration occupations were the leading job category in Webequie with 69 jobs in 2022. This accounts for 22.6% of the total jobs.

Webequie First Nation experienced a large increase across all occupational categories between 2018 and 2022 (where possible to calculate) with an overall increase in jobs of 46% over 4 years. The occupational category with the largest percentage increase over the 4-year period was trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations with a 65% increase.

[26] The National Occupational Classification (NOC) is Canada's national system to identify and categorize occupations based on the training, education, experience and responsibilities they require. The structure of NOC codes is hierarchical with five levels. The first level (1-digit) contains 10 broad occupational categories, the second level (2-digit) is made up of 45 major groups, the third level (3-digit) consists of 89 sub-major groups, the fourth level (4-digit) gathers 162 minor groups, and the last level (5-digit) comprises 516 unit groups.

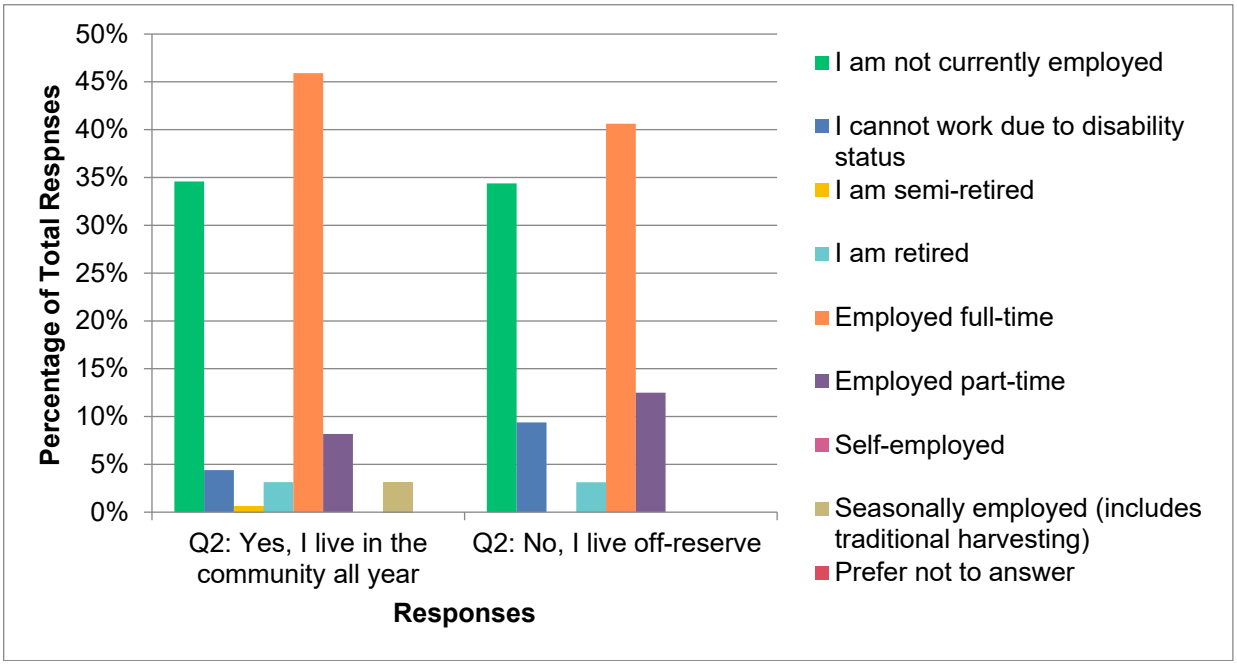
Table 6-4: Occupations by Category Defined by National Occupation Classification in Webequie First Nation (2018 – 2022)

Occupation Categories	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Business, finance and administration occupations	44	69	25	57%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	<10	12	-	-
Health occupations	11	17	6	58%
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	60	86	26	43%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	<10	<10	-	-
Sales and service occupations	48	63	14	30%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	14	24	9	65%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	<10	<10	-	-
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	<10	<10	-	-
Unclassified	<10	<10	-	-
Management occupations	12	17	5	38%
Total	**210**	**305**	**95**	**46%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023a.

A 2022 Socio-Economic survey was carried out to collect data from individuals living on reserve and individuals living off reserve on labour force and employment in Webequie First Nation. When asked about employment status, most individuals living on reserve who participated in the survey indicated that they were either employed full-time (73 out of 159 responses [45.9%]), or not currently employed (55 out of 159 responses [34.6%]) as shown on **Figure 6-3** (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). The 2022 Socio-Economic survey and the 2021 Census are varied likely due to sampling differences.

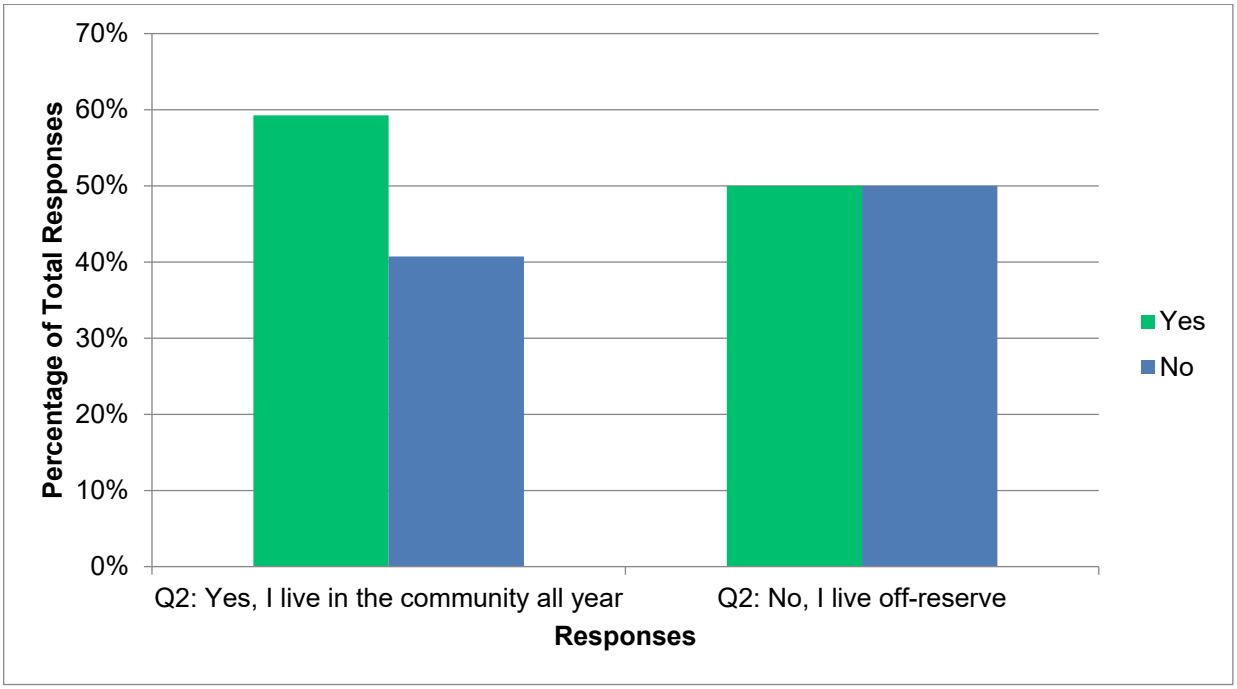
Figure 6-3: What is Your Employment Status? – Webequie First Nation, WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

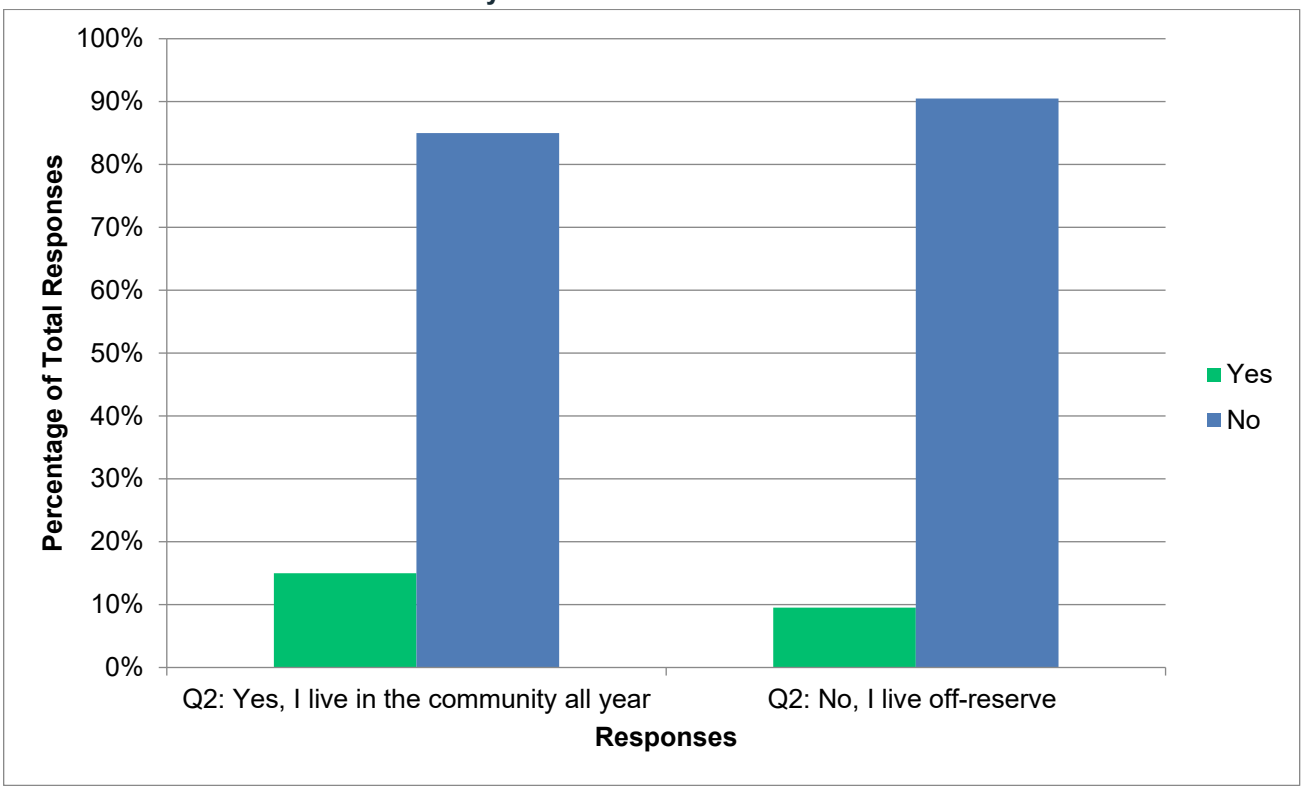
More than half of the individuals who responded to the survey that live on reserve and were not currently employed (32 out of 54 responses [59.3%]) were searching for work as shown on **Figure 6-4**. For individuals that were employed, 85% of the respondents that live on reserve did not own, operate, or work for a local, Indigenous-owned business, as shown on **Figure 6-5** (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

Figure 6-4: If You Are Not Currently Employed, Are You Searching for Work? – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

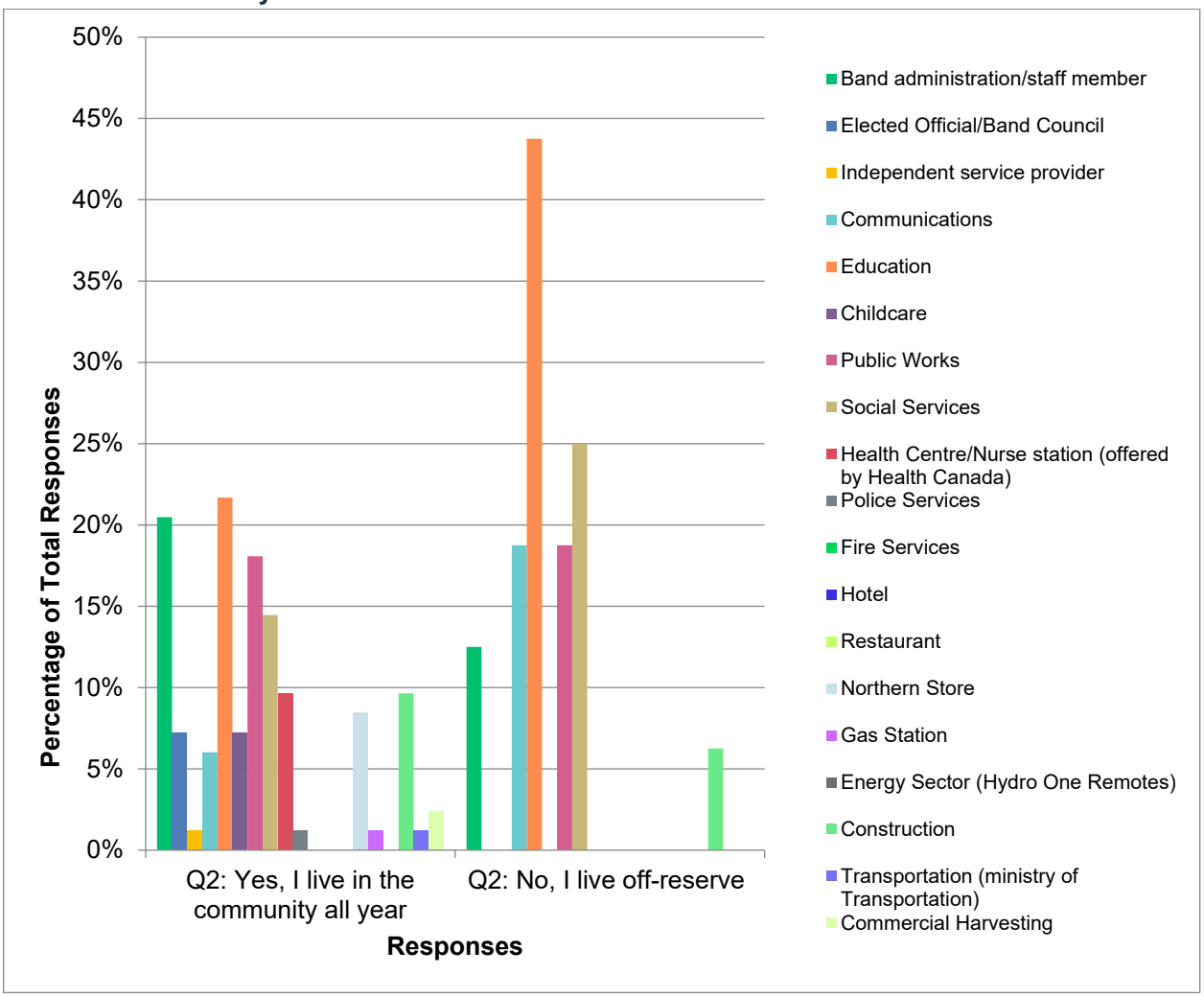
Figure 6-5: Do You Own, Operate, Or Work for A Local, Indigenous Owned Business? – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

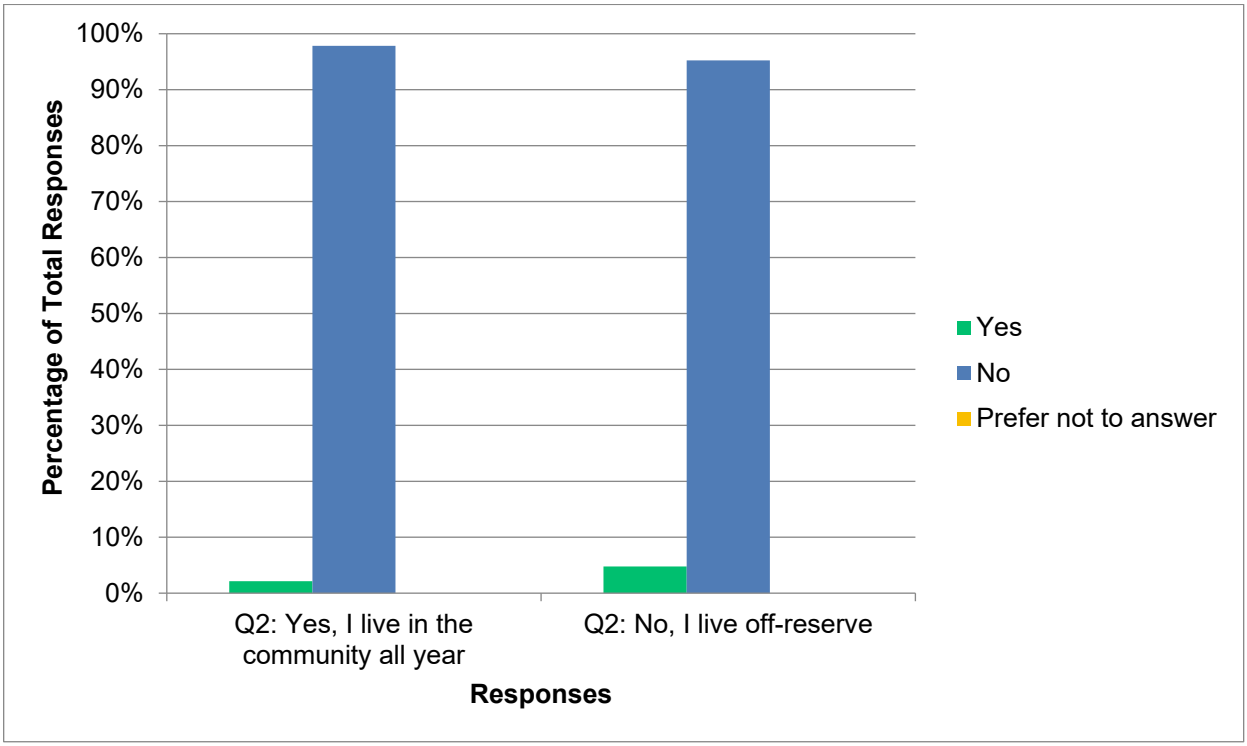
Of those who responded to the survey (83 responses), members living on reserve mostly worked in education (18 responses), band administration/staff member (17 responses), public works (15 responses), and social services (12 responses); none of the respondents living on reserve at the time indicated that they worked in fire services, hotels, restaurants, or the energy sector (i.e., Hydro One Remote), as shown on **Figure 6-6**. Very few members of the community worked in the mining industry, as only 2 out of 93 responses (2.2%) from members living on reserve indicated that they work in the mining industry, as shown on **Figure 6-7** (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

Figure 6-6: How Would You Classify Your Work Industry (Check All That Apply)? – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

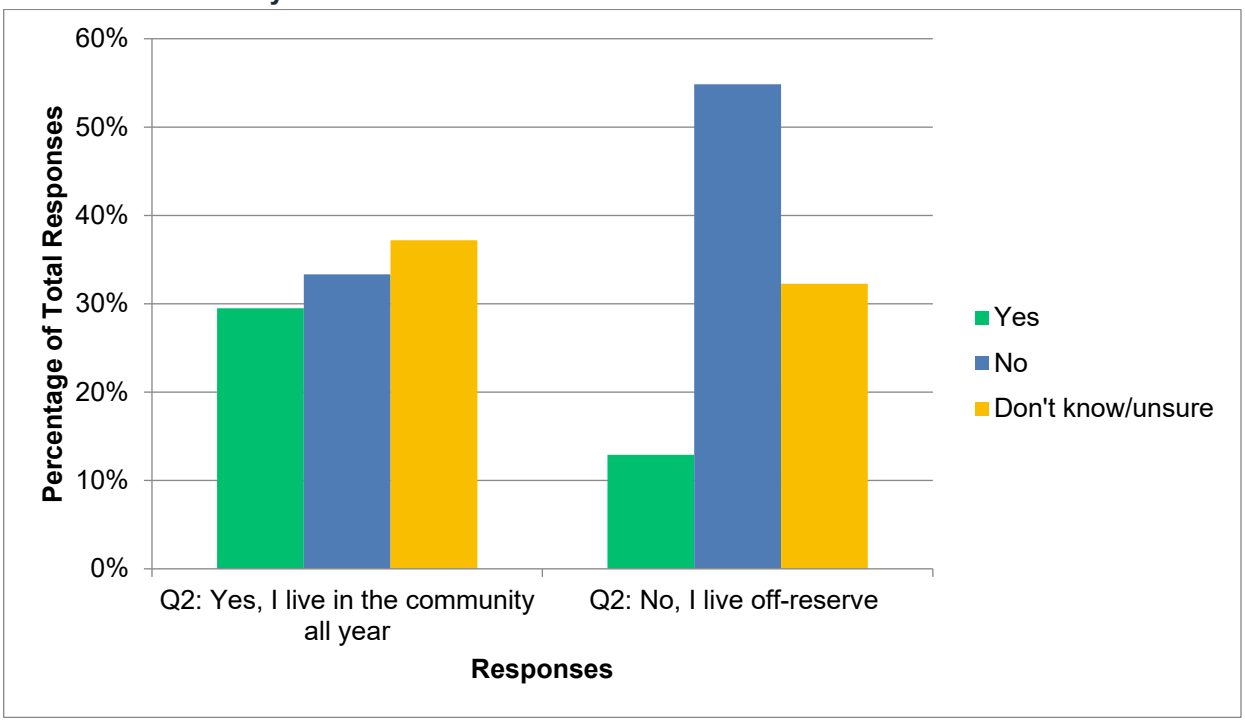
Figure 6-7: Are You Employed in Mining Exploration, or Other Mining-Related Industry? – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

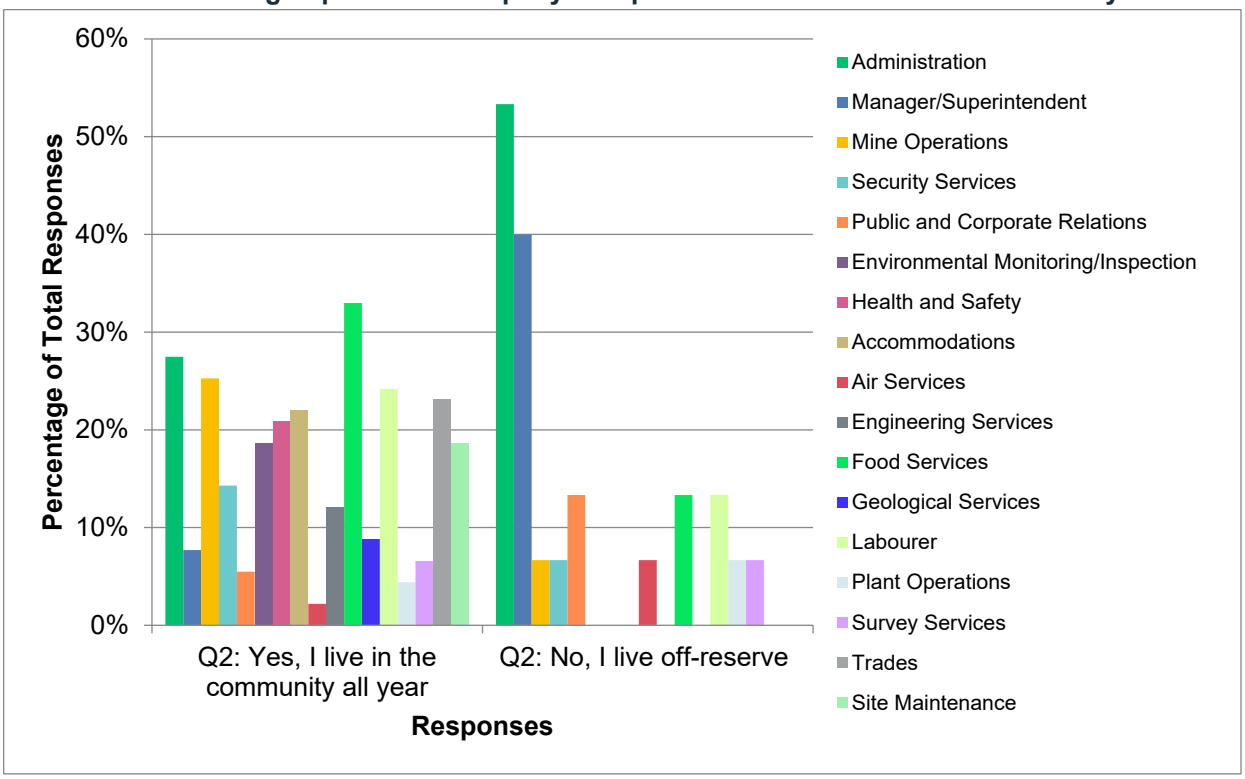
When asked if members that were currently not employed in the mining industry wanted to work directly and indirectly in mining in the future, out of the 159 responses received from members living on reserve: 46 responses (29.5%) indicated that they would like to work in mining in the future (33.3%) of respondents indicated that they have no intentions to work in mining, and the remaining 58 responses (37.2%) indicated that they were unsure, as shown on **Figure 6-8**. Individuals that were interested in working in the mining industry shared different roles they wanted to fill, as shown on **Figure 6-9**. Food services was the most mentioned response from members of the community (30 out of 91 responses), followed by administration (25 out of 91 responses), and security service (13 out of 91 responses) (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

Figure 6-8: If You Are Not Employed in Mining, Would You Like to Be in the Future? – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

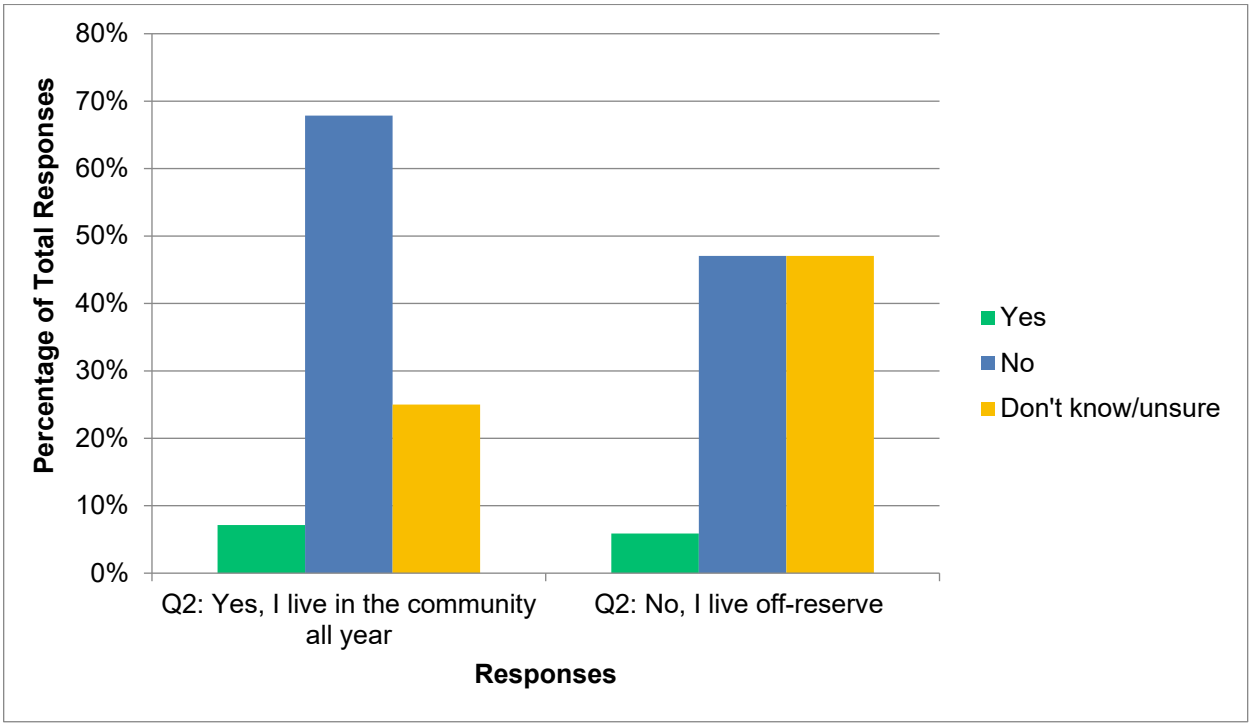
Figure 6-9: If You Would Like to be Employed In Mining, What Sort of Work Would You Like to do for these Mining Exploration Company/Companies – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

A major concern with labour force and employment in Webequie First Nation was the lack of local job opportunities, as 76 out of 112 responses from members living on reserve stated that they do not feel there are enough job opportunities for them, as shown in **Figure 6-10** (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

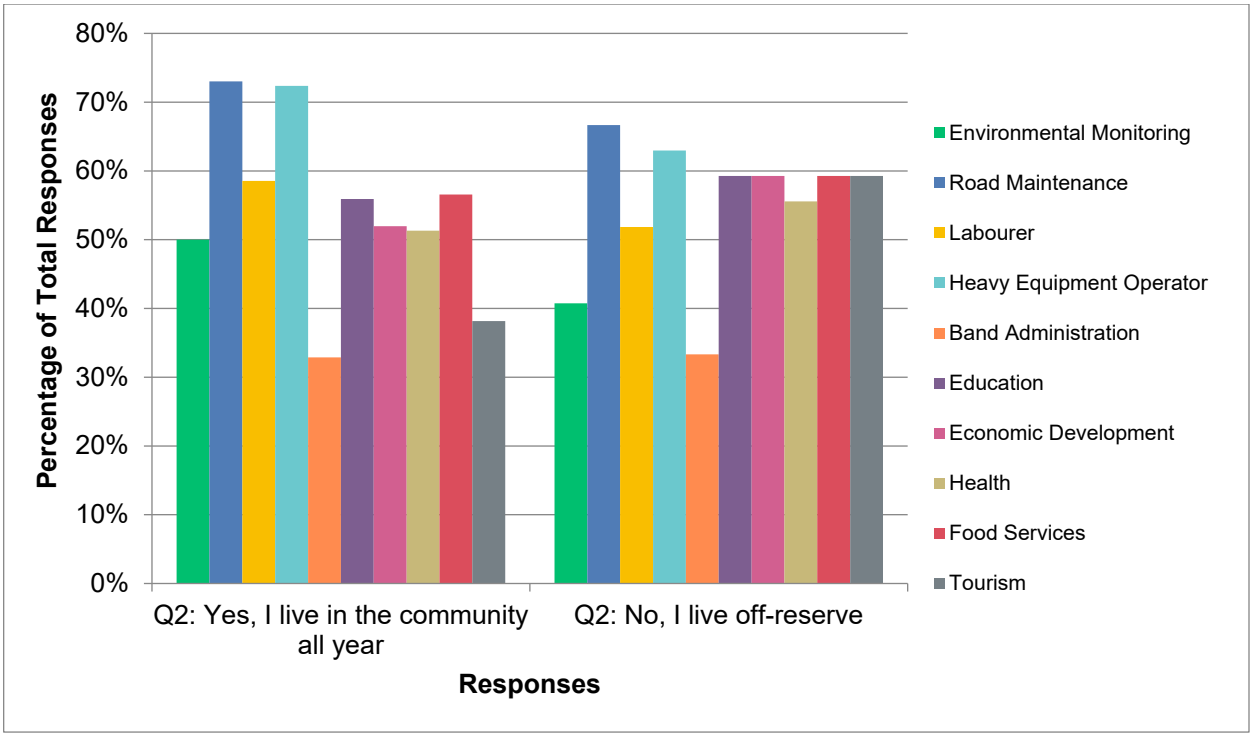
Figure 6-10: Do You Think There Are Enough Local Job Opportunities? – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Members were asked that if they think the WSR will provide job opportunities for Webequie First Nation, and what job opportunities they would seek. Members were allowed to select as many of the options that were provided, which included: environmental monitoring, road maintenance, labourer, heavy equipment operator, band administration, education, economic development, health services, food services, and tourism. 152 responses were collected from members living on reserve. Road maintenance and heavy equipment operator were most selected in the responses, with 73.0% and 72.4% of responses, respectively, as shown in **Figure 6-11**. Band administration was the least selected responses among members living on reserve, as only 58.6% of responses included band administration as a job members would seek (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

Figure 6-11: If you think the Webequie Supply Road will provide job opportunities for Webequie First Nation, which of the following sectors would you like to seek job opportunities in? – WSR Socio-Economic Survey

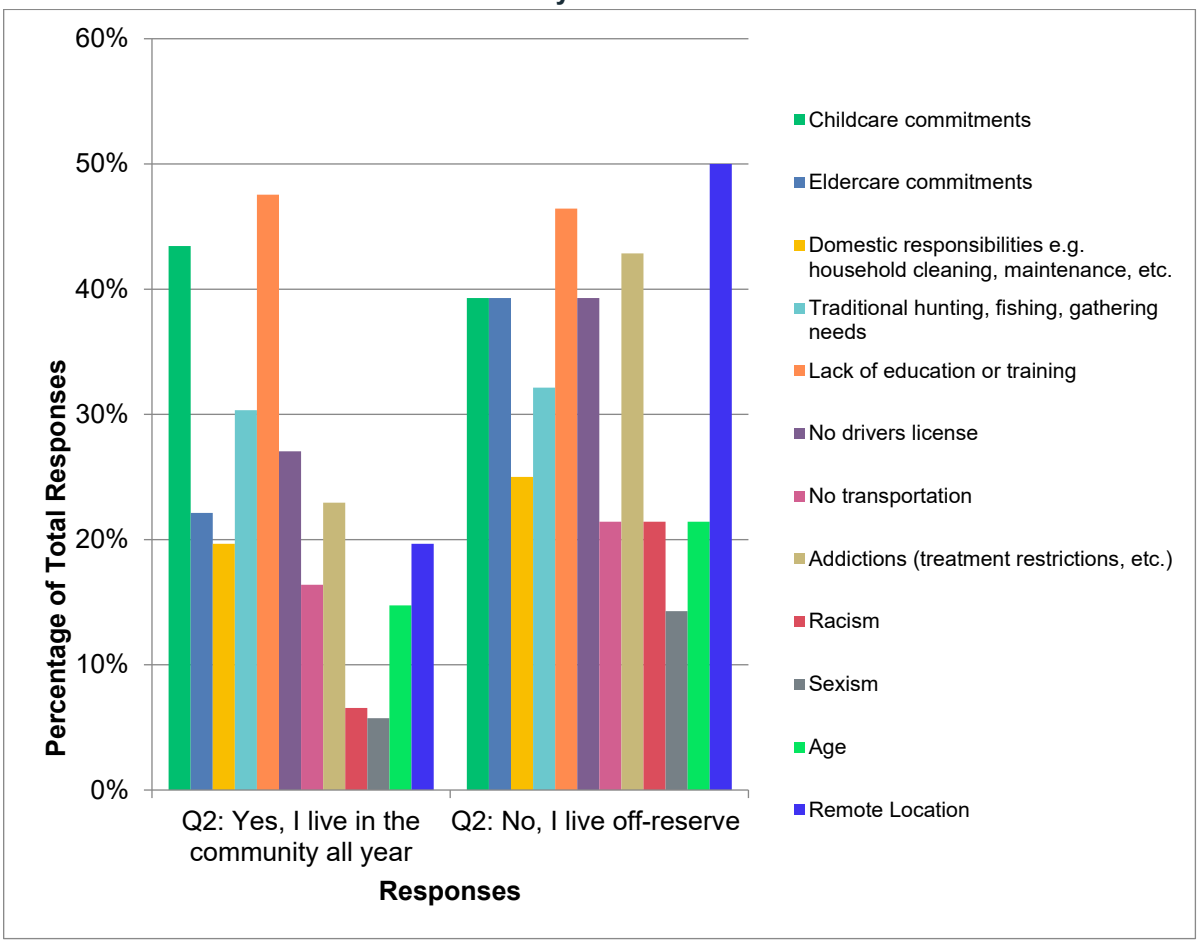


Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Webequie First Nation members who live off reserve were asked whether they would live in Webequie year-round and if so, is it because of the WSR and/or future mining developments in the area. Out of 30 responses, 17 of the responses indicated that they would like to live in Webequie First Nation year-round, four of the responses indicated they would not like to live in Webequie First Nation year-round, and the remaining 14 responses indicated that they are unsure. Among the individuals who responded that they would like to live in Webequie First Nation year-round, 12 out of 15 responded that the WSR and/or future mining developments in the area was the reason, while one individual indicated that this was not the reason, and two individuals indicated that they were unsure.

Many First Nations members experienced some barriers in obtaining or maintaining employment. When asked what Webequie First Nation members feel to be barriers, 47.5% of responses from members living on reserve listed lack of education and training, and 43.4% of responses listed childcare commitments as a barrier, as shown on **Figure 6-12** (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

Figure 6-12: If you experience barriers to getting or maintaining employment, please identify what they are – WSR Socio-Economic Survey



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

There is a strong desire within the community to find employment, and having training programs readily available will prepare them for the future (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). All training programs provided by the community are open to everyone. If students do not have the prerequisite experience/education for the program, it will be provided by the school. However, some programs require students to complete Grade 12 education (e.g., heavy equipment operator, construction, carpentry, plumbing) but the main high school on reserve only offers courses up to Grade 10 because there are not enough students. As a consequence, secondary school students find themselves compelled to travel to Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie to complete their Grade 11 and 12 education (211 Ontario, 2023b).

The Webequie Employment Coordinator believes that the lack of interest among students to enroll in higher level education is because promises made by the government to have more job opportunities were not kept and it is uncertain whether jobs that require Grade 12 level education will be available for students upon graduation therefore less students plan to continue their education to Grade 12 (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). However, some training programs allow students to enroll without completing high school, such as drilling and line cutting training programs. Community members that have partial experience/ training in certain trades, such as plumbing and carpentry, are eligible to receive apprenticeship training. There is a strong need in the community for heavy equipment training and maintenance training as many of the current community members that are trained in these fields are older and will likely retire soon, therefore, having these training programs will be essential for the younger generation to take over the trades. Both men and women in the community are interested in taking training programs but women can have difficulty enrolling due to problems such as education barriers and household roles including childcare. Although most women in the community

do not want to work in construction, there is interest in construction related roles such as accommodation, hospitality, and maintenance in the camp.

Due to changing demands for specific jobs, it is not feasible for the community to provide training for skills that are not applicable to the current job market (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Rather, the community will identify and offer the training courses that are needed to match with current and near future job opportunities. Many members of the community want to become semi-truck drivers, but this requires members complete a G1 driver's written and G2 road test, which is difficult as there are no proper highways for members to practice their driving. With technology being incorporated into existing jobs, the need for computer training becomes apparent. The youth participants of the WSR Socio-Economic focus groups, for instance, expressed their frustration over the limited internet speeds and access points in the community and emphasized the need for more hotspots (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

When asked if WSR will bring more job opportunities, the Webequie Employment Coordinator believes that it will, and a large focus will be on providing community members with the education and training required for these new jobs (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). The increased job opportunities will most likely benefit those younger than 30 years old the most (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). However, the view from one community spokesperson is that this would most likely be a lot of coordinating jobs (i.e., desk/office work) and road maintenance work (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Many community members take part in training and certification courses offered by KKETS (Webequie First Nation, 2023). KKETS has previously offered training in drilling, line cutting and heavy equipment mechanic training, but this training is typically only offered outside of Webequie. An interview with a Webequie community member outlined that the focus of KKETS is now on the Aboriginal Skills and Training Program which helps members complete Grade 12. Once the members have completed Grade 12, they can train for a skilled trade (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). The employment Coordinator position at Webequie is currently vacant (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). The trades training programs funded by KKETS are only available off reserve in places such as Thunder Bay or Ottawa (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Webequie attempted to have the training offered on reserve by bringing trainers to the community, but previous COVID-19 health restrictions made it difficult to execute. With less restrictions and a new training building, there is currently more focus on having training programs delivered on reserve.

The Northern Ontario Internship Program (NOIP) is a training program offered by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) that is provided to graduates interested in pursuing careers in existing or emerging priority sectors (e.g., advanced manufacturing, agriculture, aquaculture, and food processing, etc.) in Northern Ontario (Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, 2017). The purpose of the NOIP is to strengthen Northern Ontario's competitive advantage and build economic development capacity by attracting and retaining graduates in the North. Any organization is eligible to apply for the program to support recent graduates, provided that they are 1) located in Northern Ontario, and 2) have been in operation for at least one full year with a minimum of one full-time employee and operate in existing or emerging priority economic sectors.

6.1.1.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

An invitation to participate in the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program for the Project was sent to all the other Indigenous communities within the LSA; however, at this time, Socio-Economic survey data and other community input are not available. More Socio-Economic data and analysis will be added as it becomes available. The information below is based on information from Statistics Canada.

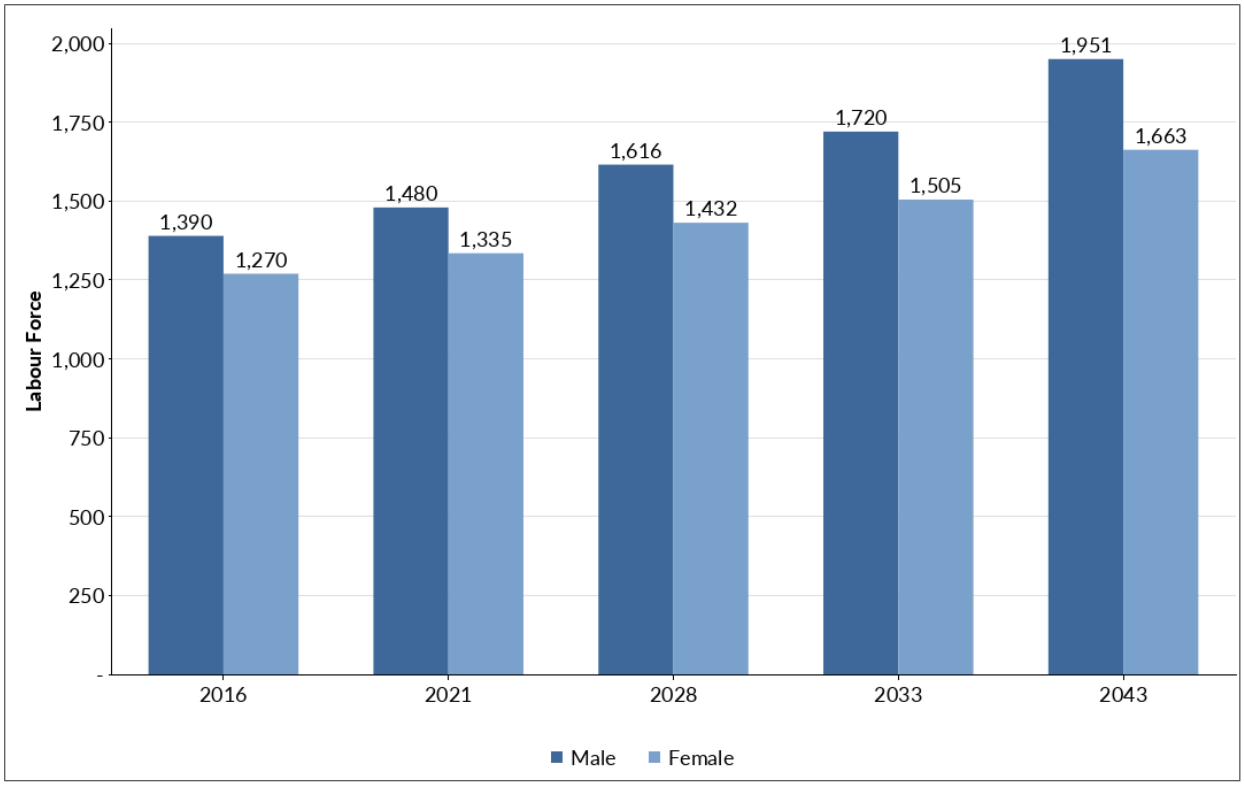
Figure 6-13 and **Table 6-5** present the forecasted working age population over the projection period 2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, and 2043, for the following other Indigenous communities within the LSA (Statistics Canada, 2017, 2022):

- Attawapiskat First Nation;
- Eabametoong First Nation;
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation;

- Marten Falls First Nation;
- Neskantaga First Nation;
- Nibinamik First Nation; and
- Weenusk First Nation.

The working age population is defined as those aged 15 to 64. The values for 2016 and 2021 are published statistics from the 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census of Population (Statistics Canada 2017, 2022). The values for 2028, 2023, and 2043 were forecasted based on the 2016 and 2021 data as outlined in **Section 5.1.1.1**. The working age population is predicted to increase over the projection period. Based on current growth trends, the working age population is forecasted to increase by approximately 1,020 between 2016 and 2043.

Figure 6-13: Projected Working Age Population for Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 6-5: Projected Working Age Population for Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

Year	Community	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	Marten Falls First Nation	150	100%	80	53.3%	65	43.3%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	225	100%	105	46.7%	125	55.6%
	Neskantaga First Nation	140	100%	80	57.1%	65	46.4%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	505	100%	255	50.5%	250	49.5%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	585	100%	295	50.4%	290	49.6%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	935	100%	510	54.5%	425	45.5%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	115	100%	65	56.5%	50	43.5%
	Total	**2,655**	**100%**	**1,390**	**52.4%**	**1,270**	**47.8%**
2021	Marten Falls First Nation	135	100%	70	51.9%	65	48.1%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	215	100%	110	51.2%	105	48.8%
	Neskantaga First Nation	145	100%	80	55.2%	65	44.8%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	645	100%	360	55.8%	285	44.2%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	560	100%	275	49.1%	285	50.9%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	950	100%	490	51.6%	460	48.4%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	170	100%	95	55.9%	70	41.2%
	Total	**2,820**	**100%**	**1,480**	**52.5%**	**1,335**	**47.3%**
2028	Marten Falls First Nation	116	100%	58	49.8%	65	55.8%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	202	100%	117	58.2%	82	40.8%
	Neskantaga First Nation	152	100%	80	52.5%	65	42.7%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	909	100%	583	64.2%	342	37.7%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	527	100%	249	47.3%	278	52.8%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	971	100%	463	47.7%	514	52.9%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	294	100%	162	55.0%	112	38.2%
	Total	**3,068**	**100%**	**1,616**	**52.7%**	**1,432**	**46.7%**

Year	Community	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2033	Marten Falls First Nation	105	100%	51	48.5%	65	62.0%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	193	100%	123	63.8%	69	35.8%
	Neskantaga First Nation	158	100%	80	50.7%	65	41.2%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,160	100%	824	71.0%	390	33.6%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	504	100%	232	46.1%	273	54.2%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	987	100%	445	45.1%	556	56.4%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	434	100%	236	54.4%	157	36.1%
	Total	**3,259**	**100%**	**1,720**	**52.8%**	**1,505**	**46.2%**
2043	Marten Falls First Nation	85	100%	39	45.8%	65	76.5%
	Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	176	100%	135	76.7%	49	27.7%
	Neskantaga First Nation	169	100%	80	47.3%	65	38.4%
	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	1,893	100%	1,642	86.7%	507	26.8%
	Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	462	100%	202	43.7%	264	57.1%
	Attawapiskat First Nation	1,019	100%	411	40.3%	652	64.0%
	Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	949	100%	505	53.2%	308	32.4%
	Total	**3,677**	**100%**	**1,951**	**53.1%**	**1,663**	**45.2%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

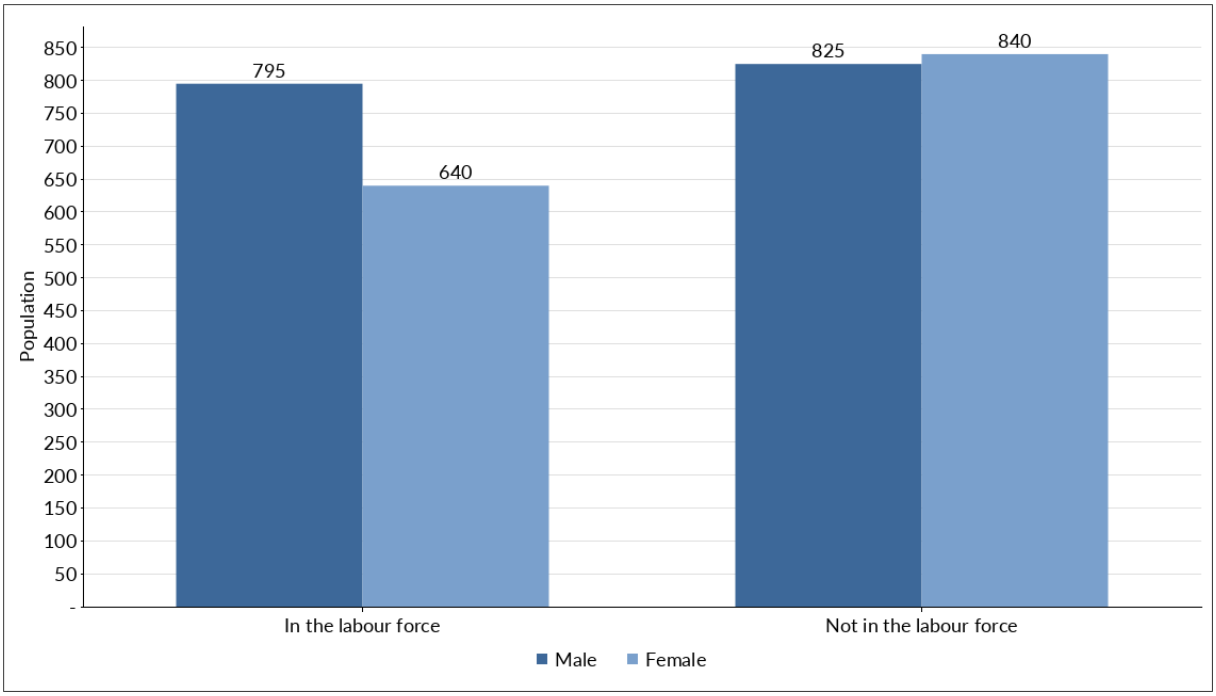
Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 6-14 and **Table 6-6** present the breakdown of the population in the labour force and those not in the labour force for other Indigenous communities within the LSA in 2021.

Within the LSA Indigenous communities, the distribution of those within the labour force and those not in the labour force is nearly equal with 46.1% of the total population in the labour force and 53.9% not in the labour force.

- Weenusk First Nation has the highest concentration of people in the labour force at 70.7%;
- Attawapiskat First Nation has the lowest concentration of people in the labour force at 34.6%; and
- The participation rate for the LSA Indigenous communities is 46.4%.

Figure 6-14: Labour Force Participation for Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 6-6: Labour Force Participation for Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Labour Force Participation	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	In the labour force	65	40.6%	35	41.2%	35	43.8%
	Not in the labour force	95	59.4%	50	58.8%	45	56.3%
	Total	**160**	**100%**	**85**	**100%**	**80**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	In the labour force	150	63.8%	70	63.6%	75	65.2%
	Not in the labour force	85	36.2%	40	36.4%	40	34.8%
	Total	**235**	**100%**	**110**	**100%**	**115**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	In the labour force	90	56.3%	50	55.6%	40	57.1%
	Not in the labour force	70	43.8%	40	44.4%	30	42.9%
	Total	**160**	**100%**	**90**	**100%**	**70**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	In the labour force	315	45.3%	190	49.4%	130	41.3%
	Not in the labour force	380	54.7%	195	50.6%	185	58.7%
	Total	**695**	**100%**	**385**	**100%**	**315**	**100%**

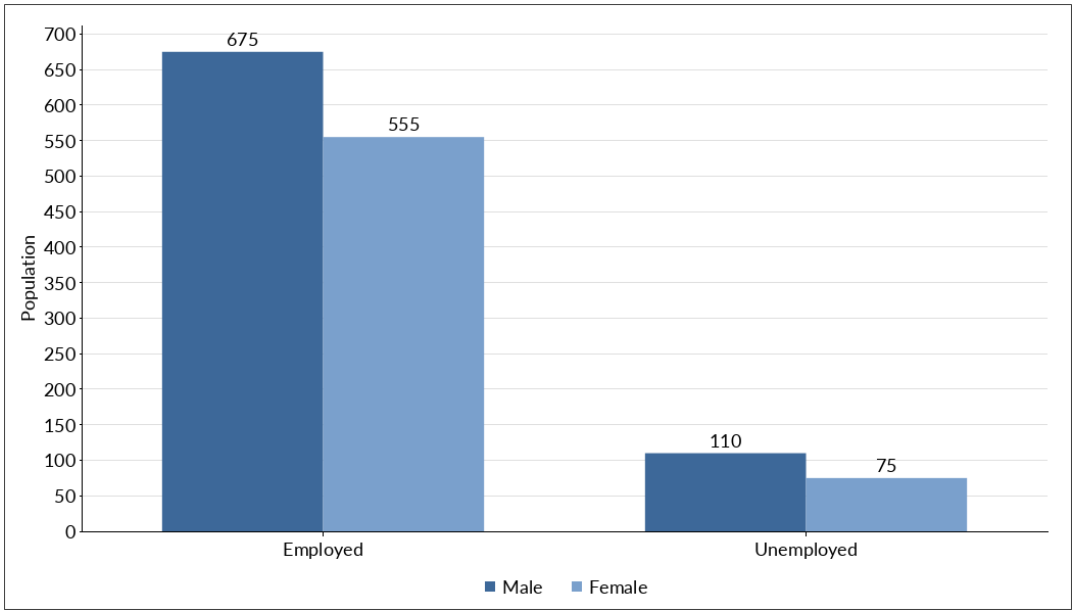
Community	Labour Force Participation	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	In the labour force	305	50.0%	150	50.8%	155	50.0%
	Not in the labour force	305	50.0%	145	49.2%	155	50.0%
	Total	**610**	**100%**	**295**	**100%**	**310**	**100%**
Attawapiskat First Nation	In the labour force	360	34.6%	200	37.0%	160	32.0%
	Not in the labour force	680	65.4%	340	63.0%	340	68.0%
	Total	**1,040**	**100%**	**540**	**100%**	**500**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	In the labour force	145	70.7%	100	87.0%	45	50.0%
	Not in the labour force	60	29.3%	15	13.0%	45	50.0%
	Total	**205**	**100%**	**115**	**100%**	**90**	**100%**
Total	In the labour force	1,430	46.1%	795	49.1%	640	43.2%
	Not in the labour force	1,675	53.9%	825	50.9%	840	56.8%
	Total	**3,105**	**100%**	**1,620**	**100%**	**1,480**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 6-15 and **Table 6-7** present the breakdown of the employment status for those classified as being in the labour force for other Indigenous communities within the LSA in 2021. Of the population classified as being in the labour force, 94.6% are employed.

Figure 6-15: Employment Status of Labour Force, Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 6-7: Employment Status of Labour Force for Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Labour Force Status	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	Employed	45	69.2%	20	66.7%	20	57.1%
	Unemployed	20	30.8%	10	33.3%	15	42.9%
	Total	**65**	**100%**	**30**	**100%**	**35**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Employed	130	86.7%	65	86.7%	60	80.0%
	Unemployed	20	13.3%	10	13.3%	15	20.0%
	Total	**150**	**100%**	**75**	**100%**	**75**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	Employed	80	88.9%	45	81.8%	35	100.0%
	Unemployed	10	11.1%	10	18.2%	-	0.0%
	Total	**90**	**100%**	**55**	**100%**	**35**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Employed	285	90.5%	165	91.7%	115	88.5%
	Unemployed	30	9.5%	15	8.3%	15	11.5%
	Total	**315**	**100%**	**180**	**100%**	**130**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Employed	275	90.2%	130	86.7%	140	90.3%
	Unemployed	30	9.8%	20	13.3%	15	9.7%
	Total	**305**	**100%**	**150**	**100%**	**155**	**100%**
Attawapiskat First Nation	Employed	330	91.7%	185	94.9%	145	90.6%
	Unemployed	30	8.3%	10	5.1%	15	9.4%
	Total	**360**	**100%**	**195**	**100%**	**160**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	Employed	105	72.4%	65	65.0%	40	100.0%
	Unemployed	40	27.6%	35	35.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	**145**	**100%**	**100**	**100%**	**40**	**100%**
Total	Employed	1,250	87.4%	675	86.0%	555	88.1%
	Unemployed	180	12.6%	110	14.0%	75	11.9%
	Total	**1,430**	**100%**	**785**	**100%**	**630**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-8 presents the number of jobs by 1-digit NOC[27] code for 2018 and 2022 in other Indigenous communities in the LSA. Occupational categories between 2018 and 2022 in other Indigenous communities in the LSA are summarized as follows:

- Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services are the leading occupational category across the LSA Indigenous communities with 366 jobs in 2022 which accounts for 27% of the total 2022 jobs;
- Between 2018 and 2022, there has been an increase in jobs across all occupational categories ranging from 9% to 49%;
- The occupational category with the largest percentage increase over the period is health occupations with a 49% increase, where the increase in health-related jobs is directionally if not proportionally consistent with growth in employment in the region; and
- The occupational categories with the smallest percentage increase over the 4-year period was unclassified and management occupations with 9% and 10%, respectively.

Table 6-8: Occupations by category in Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities (2018 – 2022)

Occupation Categories	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Business, finance and administration occupations	246	300	54	22%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	43	53	10	23%
Health occupations	79	118	39	49%
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	328	366	38	12%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	13	15	1	11%
Sales and service occupations	206	238	32	16%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	106	135	28	27%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	15	21	7	46%
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	12	14	2	18%
Unclassified	17	18	2	9%
Management occupations	68	75	7	10%
Total	**1,134**	**1,353**	**219**	**19%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This table displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

[27] The National Occupational Classification (NOC) is Canada's national system to identify and categorize occupations based on the training, education, experience and responsibilities they require. The structure of NOC codes is hierarchical with five levels. The first level (1-digit) contains 10 broad occupational categories, the second level (2-digit) is made up of 45 major groups, the third level (3-digit) consists of 89 sub-major groups, the fourth level (4-digit) gathers 162 minor groups, and the last level (5-digit) comprises 516 unit groups.

6.1.1.1.3 GBA+ Considerations

Understanding the current state of employment and the economy in Webequie First Nation helps to identify sub-populations, such as women, youth, and individuals living with disabilities, who might experience disproportionate barriers to employment, and further, who may be at a disadvantage to benefit from a potential increase in employment opportunities associated with the WSR Project due to such barriers.

The majority of Webequie's population is not in the labour force (61.7%). The participation rate for Webequie's working age population (ages 15-64) is 37.9%, with the female participation rate (39.2%) and male participation rate (38.6%) being nearly the same. This participation rate is low compared to Ontario (63%). Of Webequie residents in the labour force, 94.6% are employed. The unemployment rate in Webequie is 5.5% which is roughly on par with Ontario (Statistics Canada, 2022). Business, finance, and administration occupations was the leading job category in Webequie, with 69 jobs in 2022 (Lightcast 2023a). This accounted for 22.6% of the total jobs in the community.

Webequie residents are concerned with local employment opportunities, particularly for youth, with 67.6% of Webequie resident respondents sharing they felt there are not enough local job opportunities (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b). Of these respondents, nearly one third (31.6%) were between the ages of 15 to 30. Approximately 69% of unemployed Webequie youth between the ages of 15 to 30 responded that they are searching for work. This suggests that some Webequie youth struggle to find employment in the community.

When asked if they experience barriers in obtaining or maintaining employment, Webequie resident respondents shared they felt lack of education or training (47.5%), childcare (43.4%), and traditional needs (i.e., hunting, fishing, and gathering) (30.3%) were the top three barriers to employment. Approximately 29% of those who noted lack of education or training as a barrier to employment were youth aged 15 to 30, suggesting some Webequie youth struggle to obtain education and training (see **Section 6.1.1.2.3**).

Community members have also expressed concerns regarding a lack of motivation among youth to seek employment (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Webequie members are hopeful that potential development in the area might help improve opportunities in education and employment for younger members (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a; 2022b).

Indigenous women often already face barriers to education and employment due to gender norms, familial responsibilities and lack of childcare options, discrimination, and risks to their personal safety (Dalseg et al., 2018). The impact of patriarchal colonialism and its devaluation of Indigenous women in society cannot be understated when considering the inequalities Indigenous women face (Mckinley, Liddell, & Lilly, 2021). Results from knowledge holder interviews and the women's focus group express community concerns for women's barriers to employment. Participants shared that several women in the community want to work and/or receive training to gain employment, but several barriers stand in their way, the largest of which include a lack of education and childcare responsibilities. Caring for dependents prevents women in Webequie from seeking further education and training as well as employment. Participants felt strongly that if the childcare and education issues could be solved, more women would be involved in the labour force (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). A focus group participant shared that they felt women must work twice as hard as men to prove themselves when it comes to employment (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Approximately 47% of the unemployed females living in the community responded that they are searching for work. Approximately 50% of Webequie resident respondents who noted education or training as a barrier to employment were female, suggesting some women and girls in Webequie experience challenges in obtaining education and training (see **Section 6.1.1.2.3**). Further, when Webequie residents were asked if they experience barriers in obtaining or maintaining employment, more females (73.6%) than males felt childcare was a barrier to employment (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

In 2020, the most common individual income groups for Webequie females were "under $10,000 (including loss)" and "$10,000 to $19,999", with 40% of Webequie females falling into these income groups. The most common individual income group for Webequie males was "under $10,000 (including loss)" (Statistics Canada 2022). Colonialism economically disadvantaged Indigenous peoples in Canada (Paul, 2020). Income inequality persists between

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada, with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people making less than non-Indigenous people (Wilson & Macdonald, 2010). Further, those living on-reserve typically earn less than those off-reserve (Raphael et al., 2020). These inequalities coupled with being in a remote, northern community and high costs of living have substantial socio-economic impacts on households. In the past, Webequie individuals did not need to depend on employment income for subsistence the way they must today (Webequie First Nation, 2019a). This dependency takes away from members' ability to go out on the land.

The traditional subsistence economy still plays an important role in many Indigenous communities. The traditional economy is particularly important to those communities which are rural and remote, facing expensive or inaccessible health foods due to the population size and lacking transportation infrastructure and limited formal economic opportunities (NCCIH, 2020). Traditional economic activity is not easily captured by common data sources and thus is not available to provide an understanding of the traditional economy in Webequie First Nation.

The WSR Project has the potential to improve employment and economic opportunities for Webequie First Nation members. However, certain subpopulations of Webequie face additional barriers to taking advantage of such opportunities, including women and youth. As noted in **Section 6.1.1.2.3**, many direct and indirect employment opportunities related to the Project will require education, training, and/or experience. Education and training attainment for Webequie members, particularly women and youth, is a challenge (see **Section 6.1.1.2.3**).

Further, Project-related employment could decrease the time Webequie members have to participate in traditional economic activities. It is anticipated that shifts during the construction phase of the Project will be limited to 14 days on and 7 days off. Webequie members employed by the Project during the construction phase may have limited ability to spend time on the land harvesting as a result (CRIAW, 2014). This presents problems for those who are more likely to depend on the traditional economy, such as Elders who may rely on the sharing economy, as well as challenges the well-being of those employed, as traditional activities can provide individuals with their sense of identity and worth (DesBrisay, 1994).

6.1.1.2 Education and Training Attainment

The educational attainment data for Webequie First Nation and other Indigenous communities in the LSA for 2021 reveals important insights. In Webequie, the majority lacks formal education (67.1%), while 12.8% have post-secondary education, with males outnumbering females. Architecture, engineering, and related trades are popular fields of study in Webequie (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

For other Indigenous communities in the LSA, 60.3% lack formal education, but 16.9% have post-secondary education with an even gender distribution. Nibinamik First Nation has the highest percentage with no formal education (nearly 70%), while Weenusk First Nation has the highest percentage with post-secondary education (32.5%), with more male graduates (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The most pursued field in the LSA communities is Education, with a significant female representation (74%). Some fields, like Physical and Life Sciences, Technology, Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences, Agriculture, and Visual and Performing Arts, have low representation, particularly among females. Architecture, Engineering, and related trades are popular among males (26%). Understanding these educational trends is crucial for tailored community support and development programs (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Webequie is an Oji-Cree speaking community. Retaining the language is an important part of cultural identity and is a part of oral community education, along with hunting, harvesting and other traditional activities such as world view, ceremonies, story telling and the production of goods. Traditional knowledge is an informal community education and learners begin to understand navigational skills, knowledge of the land and its changes, geometry, the complexities of language, ethics, natural law, governance, etc. (Baskatawang, 2023; Luby, 2014).

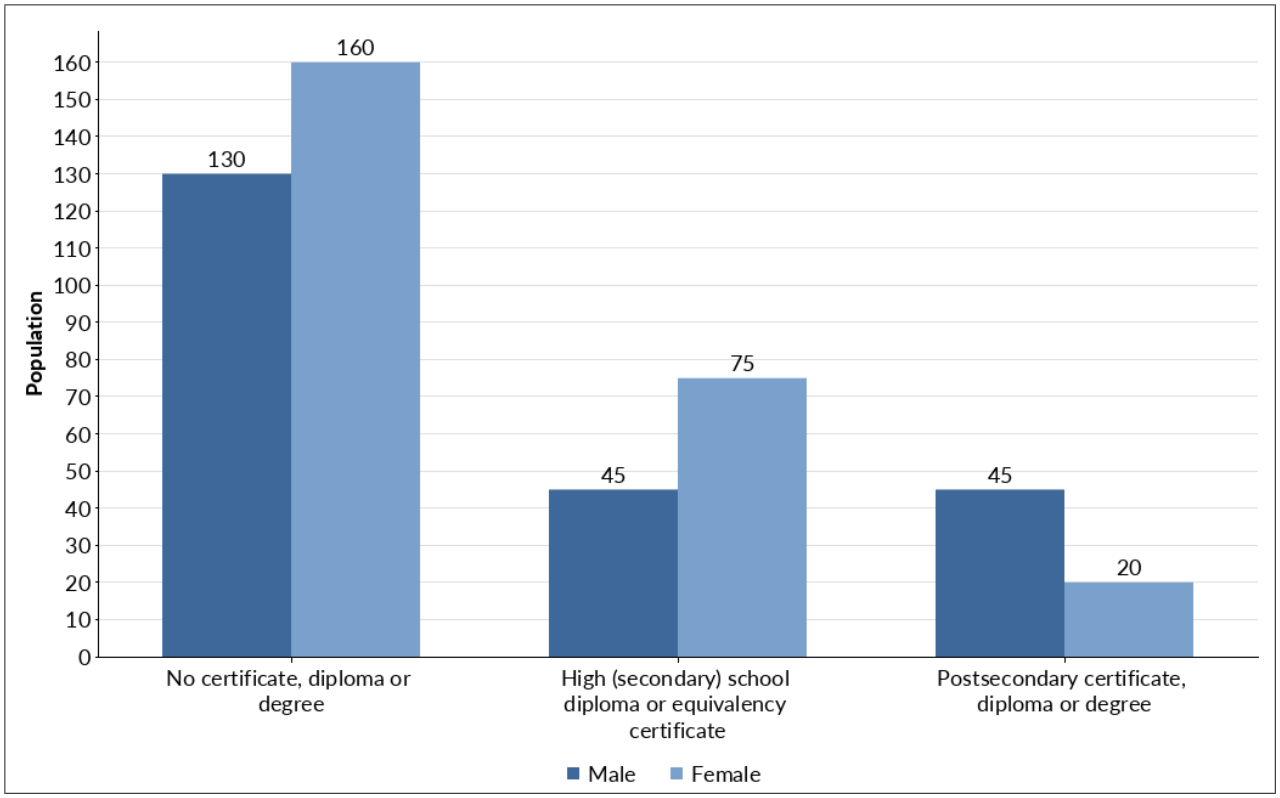
6.1.1.2.1 Webequie First Nation

There is high value placed on principles and teachings passed down by Elders and Knowledge Keepers. These teachings take place in the community and out on the Land. The knowledge passed on from the ancestors sustains the Webequie Oji-Cree identity and way of life. The community follows the teachings from the Elders, as well as the Seven Grandfather teachings along with the Three-tier model (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

Figure 6-16 and **Table 6-9** presents the highest level of western educational attainment for the population aged 15 years and over in private households in Webequie for 2021:

- The majority of the population has no post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree at 67.1%, within this group females are more likely to not have a degree in comparison to males; and
- 60 Webequie residents have obtained a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree which accounts for 12.8% of the population aged 15 years and over. The distribution of this group between male and female is skewed with males more than doubling the number of degrees in comparison to females.

Figure 6-16: Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households, Webequie (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-9: Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Webequie First Nation (2021)

Highest Level of Education	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
No certificate, diploma or degree	290	61.7%	130	59.1%	160	62.7%
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	120	25.5%	45	20.5%	75	29.4%
Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	60	12.8%	45	20.5%	20	7.8%
Total	**470**	**100%**	**220**	**100%**	**255**	**100%**

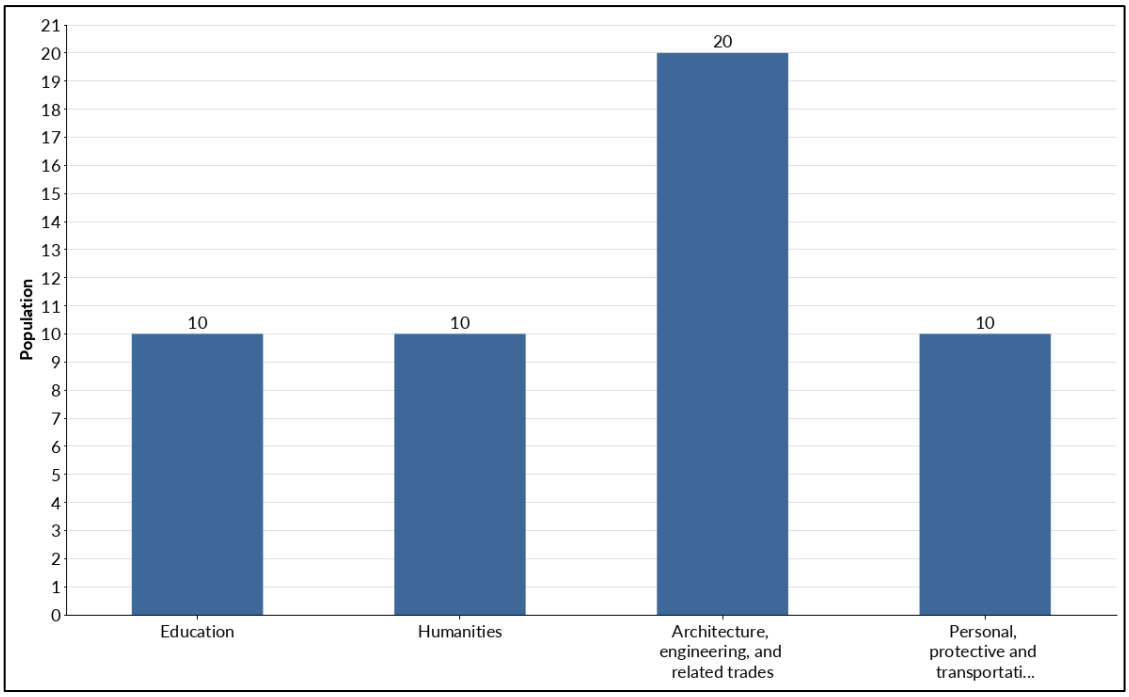
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 6-17 and **Table 6-10** presents the major fields of study for Webequie First Nation's population aged 15 and over who had obtained a post-secondary education as of 2021:

- The major fields of study pursued by Webequie residents include education, humanities, architecture, engineering, and related trades, and personal, protective, and transportation services; and
- The fields most commonly studied were architecture, engineering, and related trades which includes but is not limited to construction trades, precision production, mechanic and repair technology, engineering, and historic preservation and conservation.

Figure 6-17: Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Webequie First Nation (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-10: Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Webequie First Nation (2021)

Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Education	10	20.0%	10	25.0%	0	0.0%
Architecture, engineering, and related trades	20	40.0%	20	50.0%	0	0.0%
Health and related fields	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Personal, protective and transportation services	10	20.0%	10	25.0%	10	100.0%
Business, management and public administration	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Humanities	10	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**50**	**100%**	**40**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

6.1.1.2.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

The following Indigenous communities are explored in this section:

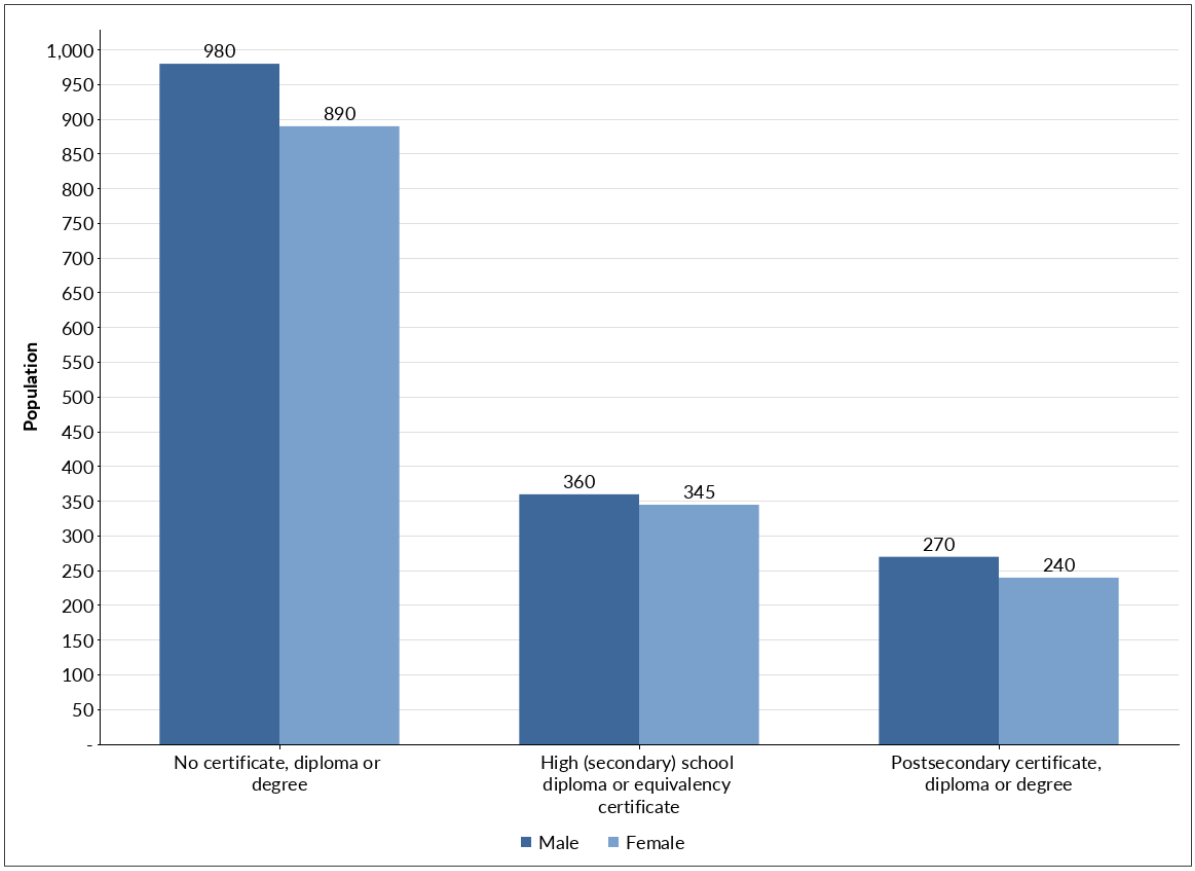
- Attawapiskat First Nation;
- Eabametoong First Nation;
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation;
- Marten Falls First Nation;
- Neskantaga First Nation;
- Nibinamik First Nation; and
- Weenusk First Nation.

Figure 6-18 and **Table 6-11** present the highest level of educational attainment for the population aged 15 years and over in private households in other Indigenous communities in the LSA for 2021.

- The majority of the population aged 15 and over has no certificate, diploma, or degree at 60.3%:
  - 520 residents in the other LSA Indigenous communities have obtained a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree which accounts for 16.9% of the population aged 15 and over. The distribution of this group is evenly distributed over the male and female population;

- Nibinamik First Nation has the highest distribution of population with no certificate, diploma, or degree at nearly 70% of their population aged 15 and over; and
- Weenusk First Nation has the highest distribution of population with a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree at 32.5%, 45 of which are male (69.2%) and 20 are female (30.8%).

Figure 6-18: Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households, Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 6-11: Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Highest Level of Education	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	No certificate, diploma or degree	100	62.5%	45	52.9%	55	68.8%
	High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	35	21.9%	25	29.4%	15	18.8%
	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	25	15.6%	15	17.6%	10	12.5%
	Total	**160**	**100%**	**85**	**100%**	**80**	**100%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	No certificate, diploma or degree	160	69.6%	85	73.9%	75	68.2%
	High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	30	13.0%	15	13.0%	15	13.6%
	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	40	17.4%	15	13.0%	20	18.2%
	Total	**230**	**100%**	**115**	**100%**	**110**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	No certificate, diploma or degree	95	61.3%	55	61.1%	45	64.3%
	High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	20	12.9%	10	11.1%	10	14.3%
	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	40	25.8%	25	27.8%	15	21.4%
	Total	**155**	**100%**	**90**	**100%**	**70**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	No certificate, diploma or degree	465	66.4%	275	71.4%	190	61.3%
	High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	110	15.7%	40	10.4%	70	22.6%
	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	125	17.9%	70	18.2%	50	16.1%
	Total	**700**	**100%**	**385**	**100%**	**310**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	No certificate, diploma or degree	465	76.9%	225	77.6%	240	76.2%
	High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	75	12.4%	40	13.8%	35	11.1%
	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	65	10.7%	25	8.6%	40	12.7%
	Total	**605**	**100%**	**290**	**100%**	**315**	**100%**

Community	Highest Level of Education	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	No certificate, diploma or degree	535	51.7%	275	51.4%	265	53.0%
	High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	340	32.9%	185	34.6%	150	30.0%
	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	160	15.5%	75	14.0%	85	17.0%
	Total	**1,035**	**100%**	**535**	**100%**	**500**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	No certificate, diploma or degree	40	20.0%	20	18.2%	20	22.2%
	High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	95	47.5%	45	40.9%	50	55.6%
	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	65	32.5%	45	40.9%	20	22.2%
	Total	**200**	**100%**	**110**	**100%**	**90**	**100%**
Total	No certificate, diploma or degree	1,860	60.3%	980	60.9%	890	60.3%
	High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	705	22.9%	360	22.4%	345	23.4%
	Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	520	16.9%	270	16.8%	240	16.3%
	Total	**3,085**	**100%**	**1,610**	**100%**	**1,475**	**100%**

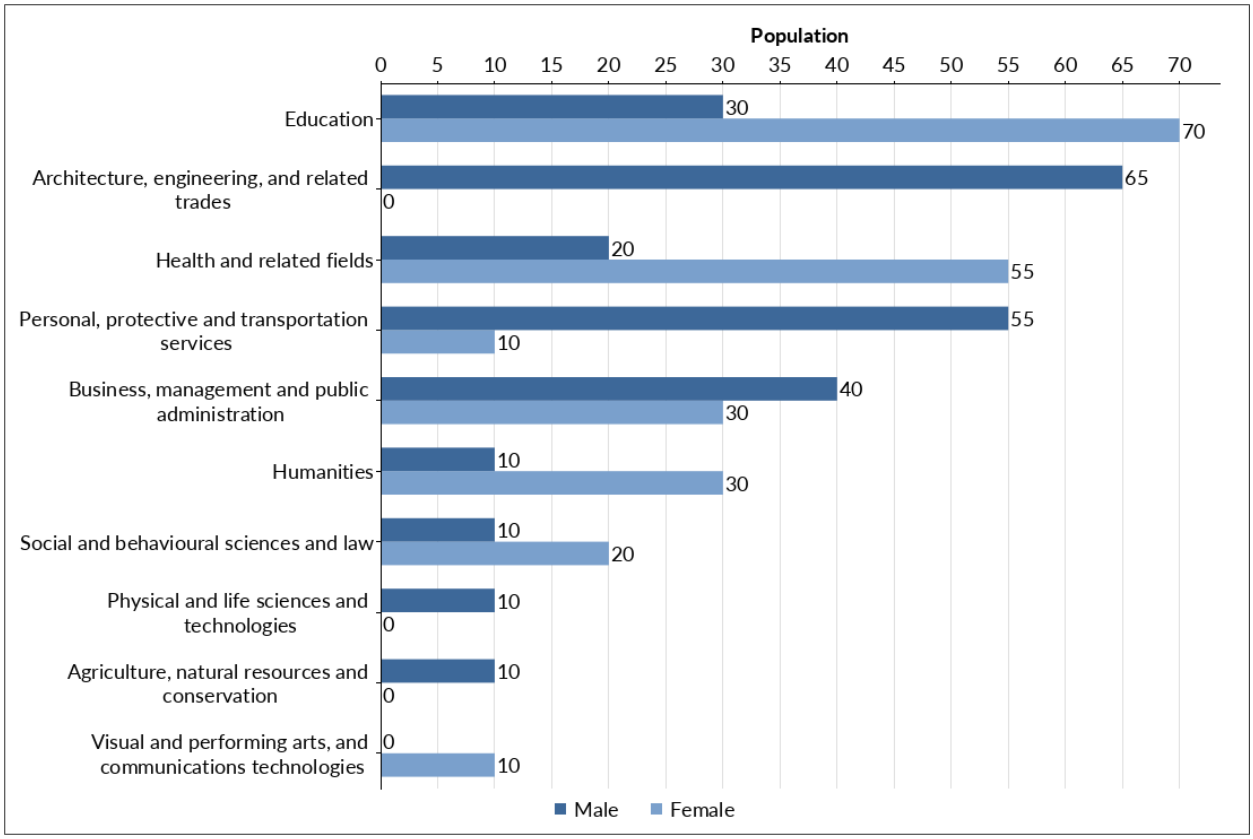
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 6-19 and **Table 6-12** present the major fields of study for the population aged 15 and over who obtained a post-secondary education in other Indigenous communities in the LSA for 2021:

- The most popular field of study pursued in the LSA communities is Education with 100 graduates. This accounts for 95 (19%) of certificates, degrees, or diplomas obtained, of which approximately 74% were female;
- The fields least studied include Physical and Life Sciences and Technology (4%), Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences (2%), Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation (2%), and Visual and Performing Arts, and Communications Technologies (2%);
- The field of study pursued by females was Education (31.1%) while the least common were Architecture, Engineering, and related trades, Physical and Life Sciences and Technologies, Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences, and Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation, each with zero completed certificates, diplomas, and degrees; and
- The field of study pursued by males was Architecture, Engineering, and related trades with 26% of individuals pursuing this field while the least common fields of study for males were Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts, and Communications Technologies.

Figure 6-19: Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 6-12: Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Marten Falls First Nation	Education	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Architecture, engineering, and related trades	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Health and related fields	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Personal, protective and transportation services	10	100.0%	10	100.0%	0	0.0%
	Business, management and public administration	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Humanities	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Social and behavioural sciences and law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Community	Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
	Physical and life sciences and technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total	**10**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**	**0**	**0%**
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Education	10	25.0%	0	0.0%	10	33.3%
	Architecture, engineering, and related trades	10	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Health and related fields	10	25.0%	10	100.0%	10	33.3%
	Personal, protective and transportation services	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Business, management and public administration	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Humanities	10	25.0%	0	0.0%	10	33.3%
	Social and behavioural sciences and law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Physical and life sciences and technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total	**40**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**	**30**	**100%**
Neskantaga First Nation	Education	10	28.6%	0	0.0%	10	100.0%
	Architecture, engineering, and related trades	15	42.9%	15	60.0%	0	0.0%
	Health and related fields	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Personal, protective and transportation services	10	28.6%	10	40.0%	0	0.0%
	Business, management and public administration	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Humanities	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Community	Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
	Social and behavioural sciences and law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Physical and life sciences and technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total	**35**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Education	30	24.0%	10	14.3%	20	40.0%
	Architecture, engineering, and related trades	20	16.0%	20	28.6%	0	0.0%
	Health and related fields	10	8.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Personal, protective and transportation services	15	12.0%	10	14.3%	0	0.0%
	Business, management and public administration	10	8.0%	10	14.3%	10	20.0%
	Humanities	15	12.0%	10	14.3%	10	20.0%
	Social and behavioural sciences and law	15	12.0%	10	14.3%	10	20.0%
	Physical and life sciences and technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	10	8.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total	**125**	**100%**	**70**	**100%**	**50**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Education	15	25.0%	0	0.0%	10	33.3%
	Architecture, engineering, and related trades	10	16.7%	10	100.0%	0	0.0%
	Health and related fields	10	16.7%	0	0.0%	10	33.3%
	Personal, protective and transportation services	10	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Community	Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
	Business, management and public administration	15	25.0%	0	0.0%	10	33.3%
	Humanities	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Social and behavioural sciences and law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Physical and life sciences and technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total	**60**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**	**30**	**100%**
Attawapiskat First Nation	Education	20	11.8%	10	13.3%	20	21.1%
	Architecture, engineering, and related trades	25	14.7%	20	26.7%	0	0.0%
	Health and related fields	35	20.6%	10	13.3%	25	26.3%
	Personal, protective and transportation services	25	14.7%	15	20.0%	10	10.5%
	Business, management and public administration	15	8.8%	10	13.3%	10	10.5%
	Humanities	10	5.9%	0	0.0%	10	10.5%
	Social and behavioural sciences and law	10	5.9%	0	0.0%	10	10.5%
	Physical and life sciences and technologies	10	5.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	10	5.9%	10	13.3%	0	0.0%
	Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	10	5.9%	0	0.0%	10	10.5%
	Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total	**170**	**100%**	**75**	**100%**	**95**	**100%**
Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck First Nation)	Education	10	16.7%	10	20.0%	0	0.0%
	Architecture, engineering, and related trades	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Health and related fields	10	16.7%	0	0.0%	10	100.0%

Community	Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
	Personal, protective and transportation services	10	16.7%	10	20.0%	0	0.0%
	Business, management and public administration	20	33.3%	20	40.0%	0	0.0%
	Humanities	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Social and behavioural sciences and law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Physical and life sciences and technologies	10	16.7%	10	20.0%	0	0.0%
	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total	**60**	**100%**	**50**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**
Total	Education	95	19.0%	30	12.0%	70	31.1%
	Architecture, engineering, and related trades	80	16.0%	65	26.0%	0	0.0%
	Health and related fields	75	15.0%	20	8.0%	55	24.4%
	Personal, protective and transportation services	80	16.0%	55	22.0%	10	4.4%
	Business, management and public administration	60	12.0%	40	16.0%	30	13.3%
	Humanities	35	7.0%	10	4.0%	30	13.3%
	Social and behavioural sciences and law	25	5.0%	10	4.0%	20	8.9%
	Physical and life sciences and technologies	20	4.0%	10	4.0%	0	0.0%
	Mathematics, computer and information sciences	10	2.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	10	2.0%	10	4.0%	0	0.0%
	Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	10	2.0%	0	0.0%	10	4.4%
	Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Total	**500**	**100%**	**250**	**100%**	**225**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

6.1.1.2.3 GBA+ Considerations

Understanding the education and training options available to Webequie First Nation members on-reserve and their level of educational attainment helps to identify sub-populations, such as women, youth, and individuals living with disabilities, who might experience disproportionate barriers to education and training, and further, who may be at a disadvantage to benefit from a potential increase in employment opportunities associated with the WSR Project due to such barriers.

Education and training opportunities are limited in fly-in First Nations communities like Webequie First Nation, and across Northern Ontario and Canada. Educational services and facilities are often inadequate, face high teacher turnover rates, and lack special education services (Finlay, Nagy, & Gray-McKay, 2010; CRIAW, 2014). Inequities in education for First Nations peoples are a result of the colonial oppression of Indigenous peoples in Canada (Irving, 2021). Webequie First Nation is not exempt from these challenges.

Webequie First Nation has the Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre, a Kindergarten to Grade 10 band-operated school. Simon Jacob is run by Webequie First Nation Education Authority under the direction of the Chief and Council (SJMEC, 2023). The school offers culturally relevant content that features the traditions, language, and way of life of Webequie First Nation and Anishinaabe people and allows students to participate in spring and fall hunts. To receive their high school diploma, youth work with teachers at the school who support their online education in partnership with Keewaytinnook Internet High School. The school experiences a high teacher turnover rate in staff. The physical size of the school is also a challenge; the lack of classroom space available has caused the school to lose space for a library, computer room, staff room, and usable kitchen in order to expand classrooms (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). The Alternative Secondary School Program (ASSP) helps those who did not complete high school get their high school equivalent (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Special education in the community is a challenge, causing inequities in education for individuals who may face intellectual disabilities[28]. Services, such as counselling and those through Jordan's Principle can be difficult to access and expensive as they can require flying out of the community. The school must bear the expensive costs of bringing counsellors up to the community, and the additional lack of housing issue in Webequie (see **Section 5.2**) creates further barriers to providing in-community counselling. Although counselling may be done virtually, not all Webequie residents have access to internet. It is noted that speech language therapy is a vital service for the community and has been available virtually since the COVID-19 pandemic. Knowledge holders noted the difficulties in providing in-community services to children with disabilities and how lack of access to these services affects their caregivers, who suffer from burn-out (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

As Webequie is a remote community, it lacks the ability to provide training locally (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Thus, at present, any Webequie member who wishes to pursue education and training beyond high school must leave the reserve and often head much further south in order to do so.

Timmins and Thunder Bay are post secondary hubs with several colleges and universities which offer both in-person and virtual training. Further, Pickle Lake, Sioux Lookout, and Greenstone have other post-secondary options, including Confederation College's regional campuses.

Training options for Webequie First Nation include an employment training program available through Matawa First Nations as well as training and certification courses through Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS). A recent focus of KKETS is the ASSP in order to help those who gain their high school equivalent enter into a skilled trade (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

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[28] Intellectual disability refers to a person's ability to learn at an expected level and function in daily life. Levels of intellectual disability vary greatly (CDC, 2022).

The employment training program available through Matawa First Nations is not currently utilized due to the lack of available jobs in Webequie. Not only are the skills of those community members who have been certified through the program in the past, including millwrights, heavy equipment operators, and remote camp cooks, currently being underutilized, but there are concerns that they are aging out of the workforce (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Courses offered at KKETS in the past include drilling, line cutting, and heavy equipment mechanic, however more recent focus at KKETS is on the Aboriginal Skills and Training program which helps members to complete their high school education before being trained in a skilled trade. Training and certification offered through KKETS often takes place outside of Webequie, in locations like Thunder Bay and Ottawa.

Webequie is hoping to train more members under the age of 35, and specifically target youth aged 18 to 20, as heavy equipment operators and mechanics in order to allow more members to take advantage of future industrial opportunities in the area (SNC-Lavalin, 2021).

In general, Webequie youth suffer from a lack of in-community opportunities and partnerships. Youth must rely on virtual opportunities if they are unable or unwilling to travel away from home to pursue further education and training after high school. Community members have expressed how difficult it can be for youth who must leave their home to access these training options due to the culture shock and financial challenges they face down south (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Further, community members shared concerns that youth do not feel motivated to pursue education and training opportunities (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a; 2022b).

Members pointed to family violence and addictions as some reasons for this lack of motivation amongst youth. One knowledge holder pointed to the intergenerational trauma of residential schools as a reason for members' poor relationship with school and education. Lack of motivation may also be attributed, in part, to the fact that many positions in the community do not require post-secondary education (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

As of 2021, 61.7% of people in Webequie First Nation had no certificate, diploma, or degree, 25.5% had their high school diploma or equivalent, and 12.8% had a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree (Statistics Canada 2022a). The rate of individuals with no certificate, diploma, or degree in Webequie First Nation is higher than the provincial rate (15.3%), while the rates of individuals who have their high school diploma (or equivalent) and those who have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree are lower than the provincial rates (27.2% and 57.5%, respectively). Females in Webequie First Nation were more likely to not have a degree (62.7%) than males (59.1%). Females were also less likely to have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree (7.8%) than males (20.5%).

The Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b) results show 35.8% of on-reserve respondents indicated that some high school, meaning they had attended but not completed high school, was their highest level of education. For off-reserve members, 25% of respondents said their highest level of education was a high school diploma, and 25% said their highest level of education was graduating from college or similar courses, indicating that the educational outcomes of Webequie members living off-reserve are higher than those living on-reserve. Few respondents indicated that they had completed post-secondary education (i.e., university or college), apprenticeships, or trade certifications. Of those living on-reserve who pursued post-secondary education and training, 40% studied education, while 38.5% of those living off-reserve who pursued post-secondary had studied business administration.

Of those Webequie member respondents between the ages of 19 and 30, almost 7% said elementary school was their highest level of education, 23.2% said they had completed some high school, and 44.2% said they had graduated high school. No Webequie respondents in this age range had graduated from university, while 18.6% said they had completed some college or similar courses and 4.7% said they had graduated from college or similar courses. Of those who had completed post-secondary education, many studied the arts, including education, business administration, and social services. The moderate proportion of individuals between the ages of 19 to 30 who had completed some college or similar courses suggests that community concerns regarding the youth culture shock and financial challenges associated with the need to leave home to pursue post-secondary education could be impacting youth's ability to complete their studies.

Indigenous women face additional barriers to education and training, including pressures to fulfill the role of caregiver in their homes, that can be linked back to the impact of colonization and introduction of patriarchal attitudes on Indigenous women in society (CRIAW, 2014; Bond & Quinlan, 2018). Female members of Webequie First Nation face inequalities in accessing education due to familial responsibilities and the lack of childcare in the community. During the Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b), when asked if the primary caregiver (i.e., childcare, eldercare) at home, the majority (80.5%) of Webequie female respondents said yes. A knowledge holder shared that if childcare could be dealt with in the community, more women would seek education and training (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). There is currently no childcare program available in Webequie.

It is important to note that members of Webequie First Nation possess skills and knowledge not reflected in education and training statistics.

The WSR Project has the potential to improve education and training attainment opportunities for Webequie First Nation members. Many direct and indirect employment opportunities related to the Project will require education, training, and/or experience, and the Project has the potential to be a source of employment growth. However, if the community's available skills do not match the Project's direct and indirect employment requirements (Martel & Noiseux, 2017). Certain subpopulations of Webequie face additional barriers to taking advantage of such opportunities, including women and youth.

The lack of education and training opportunities available to Webequie members living on-reserve as well as the low number of Webequie members between the ages of 19 and 30 who have completed post-secondary education suggests that Webequie youth may be at a disadvantage to benefit from the presence of the WSR Project and subsequent increase in employment opportunities both directly and indirectly related to the Project. Community members expressed concerns that Webequie youth will not be in a position to benefit from the Project's employment opportunities due to low educational attainment and lack of experience in related employment (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a; 2022b). Those respondents between the ages of 19 and 30 who completed post-secondary education or training primarily studied topics related to the arts (e.g., education), indicating that the skills present in the community amongst young people may not align well with positions required for the Project, which include occupational categories such as trades, equipment operators, health, and natural and applied sciences in addition to business administration.

Women are less likely to seek education and training in trades and resource industries despite the number of options in these industries in Northern Ontario, often focusing on education and training that can fulfill their community's needs, such as healthcare and education (CRIAW, 2014). Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b) responses by female Webequie members showed that few women in the community have experience in Project-related fields of study/work, with approximately 6% of female member respondents having studied business administration, 2% having studied health sciences, and none having experience in the trades. Thus, the low educational attainment of Webequie women and the limited fields of those who completed post-secondary education means women in Webequie are less likely to benefit from the WSR Project in terms of employment opportunities. Further, women with low educational attainment are at a higher risk of experiencing abuse, a major concern with the establishment of an industrial project, which are known to increase rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls (Daoud et al., 2012; Bond & Quinlan, 2018).

Webequie members fear that, without appropriate planning, community members will not be able to benefit from employment opportunities with the Project due to the current levels of educational attainment and training and current skills of the local workforce. Webequie members are hopeful that the WSR Project could build the community's capacity to benefit from the Project by increasing education and training opportunities, stressing the importance of on-reserve training provisions for members. In particular, members expressed the desire to train young people in the trades and heavy machinery (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a; 2022b).

6.1.1.3 Labour Income

Common themes throughout the LSA are the majority of households have an income level between $50,000 to $59,999 and the labour income for most individuals living on these First Nation reserves is under $10,000. Compared to the RSA, the LSA communities have a higher total percentage making under $10,000 (including loss) – 23.8% for the LSA versus 8% for the RSA. 16.6% of individuals within the LSA made over $50,000 versus 42% of individuals in the RSA made over $50,000. Having a baseline indicator of labour income data aids in understanding the potential effects of the Project on overall labour income within each community.

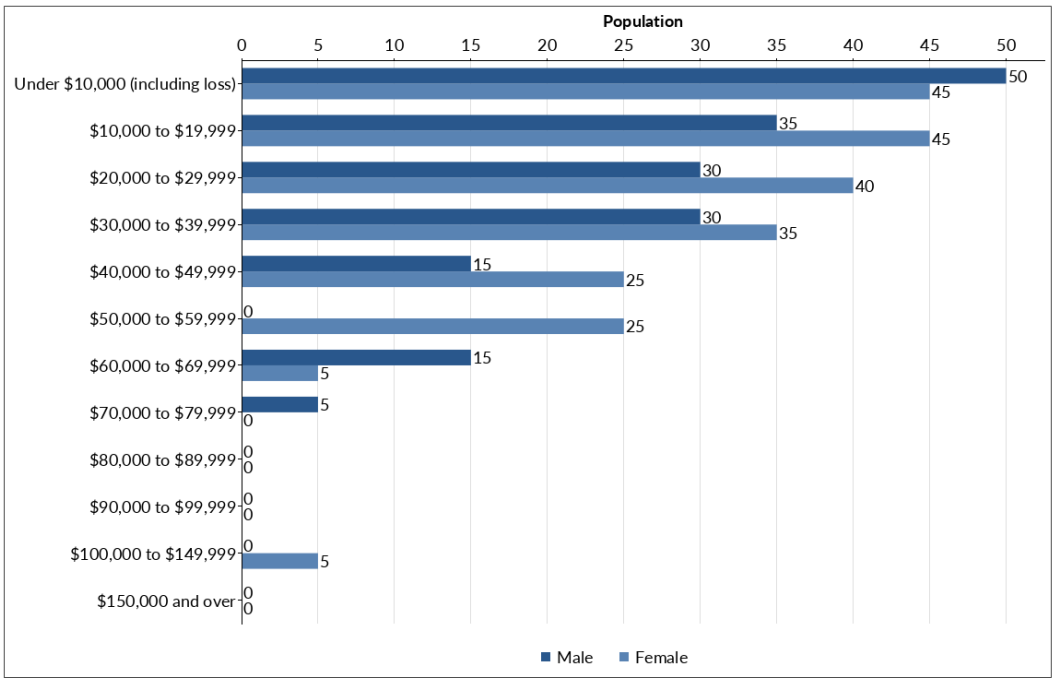
In 2020, the median after-tax income of households in the Unorganized Kenora district was $76,000, which was a 3.4% increase from the median after-tax income recorded in 2015 ($73,500) (Statistics Canada, 2022b). In comparison, First Nation communities within the LSA range from $50,400 (Eabametoong First Nation) to $68,000 (Webequie First Nation). In Canada and Ontario, the labour market related income is proportionally higher among men than women, and this same pattern is present within the LSA where the median after-tax income among men ($65,000) was 1.4 times higher than women ($47,200).

6.1.1.3.1 Webequie First Nation

Figure 6-20 and **Table 6-13** present the individual income by gender for the population aged 15 and over for 2020 in Webequie by self-identified gender.

- For males, the most common income group is “under $10,000 (including loss)” with 27.8% of working males falling into this category;
- For females, the most common income groups are “under $10,000 (including loss)” and “$10,000 to $19,999” with 40% of working females falling within these categories;
- In 2020, there were more females than males with individual incomes;
- The highest income bracket for males is between $70,000 to $79,999 with 2.7% of working males falling into this category; and; and
- The highest income bracket for females was between $100,000 to $149,999 with 2% of working females falling into this category.

Figure 6-20: Total Individual Income by Group for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Webequie (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-13: Total Individual Income by Group for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Webequie (2020)

Income Group	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Under $10,000 (including loss)	95	100%	50	53%	45	47%
$10,000 to $19,999	80	100%	35	44%	45	56%
$20,000 to $29,999	70	100%	30	43%	40	57%
$30,000 to $39,999	65	100%	30	50%	35	58%
$40,000 to $49,999	40	100%	15	38%	25	63%
$50,000 to $59,999	25	100%	0	0%	25	71%
$60,000 to $69,999	20	100%	15	75%	5	25%
$70,000 to $79,999	5	100%	5	100%	0	
$80,000 to $89,999	0		0		0	
$90,000 to $99,999	0		0		0	
$100,000 to $149,999	5	100%	0		5	100%
$150,000 and over	0		0		0	

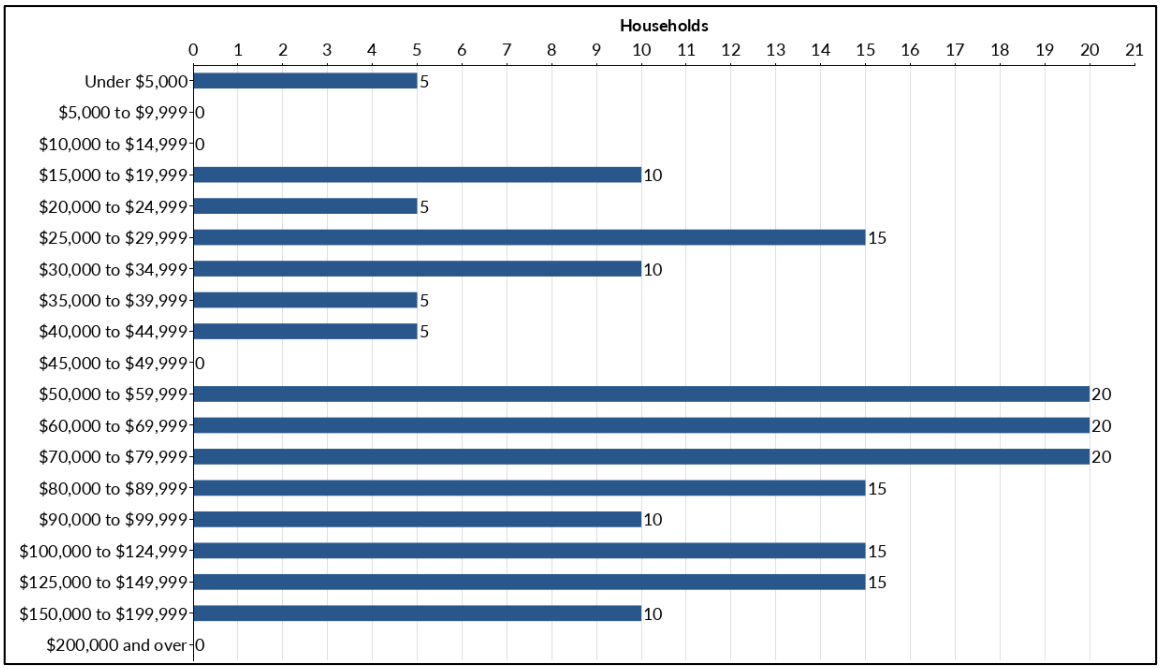
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Figure 6-21 and **Table 6-14** present the total household income for private households in 2020 in Webequie:

- The majority of households have an income level between $50,000 to $59,999, $60,000 to $69,999, or $70,000 to $79,999. Each group accounts for 11.1% of private households;
- There are four income brackets which no households fall under: $5,000 to $9,999, $10,000 to $14,999, $45,000 to $49,999, and $200,000 and over; and
- Approximately 50% of households earn under $70,000 (52.8%) while the remainder earn over $70,000 (47.2%).

Figure 6-21: Total Household Income by Group for Private Households in Webequie (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

Table 6-14: Total Household Income Groups for Private Households in Webequie (2020)

Income Group	Count	Distribution
Under $5,000	5	2.8%
$5,000 to $9,999	0	0%
$10,000 to $14,999	0	0%
$15,000 to $19,999	10	5.6%
$20,000 to $24,999	5	2.8%
$25,000 to $29,999	15	8.3%
$30,000 to $34,999	10	5.6%
$35,000 to $39,999	5	2.8%
$40,000 to $44,999	5	2.8%
$45,000 to $49,999	0	0%
$50,000 to $59,999	20	11.1%

Income Group	Count	Distribution
$60,000 to $69,999	20	11.1%
$70,000 to $79,999	20	11.1%
$80,000 to $89,999	15	8.3%
$90,000 to $99,999	10	5.6%
$100,000 to $124,999	15	8.3%
$125,000 to $149,999	15	8.3%
$150,000 to $199,999	10	5.6%
$200,000 and over	0	0%
Total	**180**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.

6.1.1.3.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Figure 6-22 and **Table 6-15** present the total individual income by group for the population age 15 and over for 2020 in the other Indigenous communities in the LSA by self-identified gender. The following First Nation communities are explored in this section:

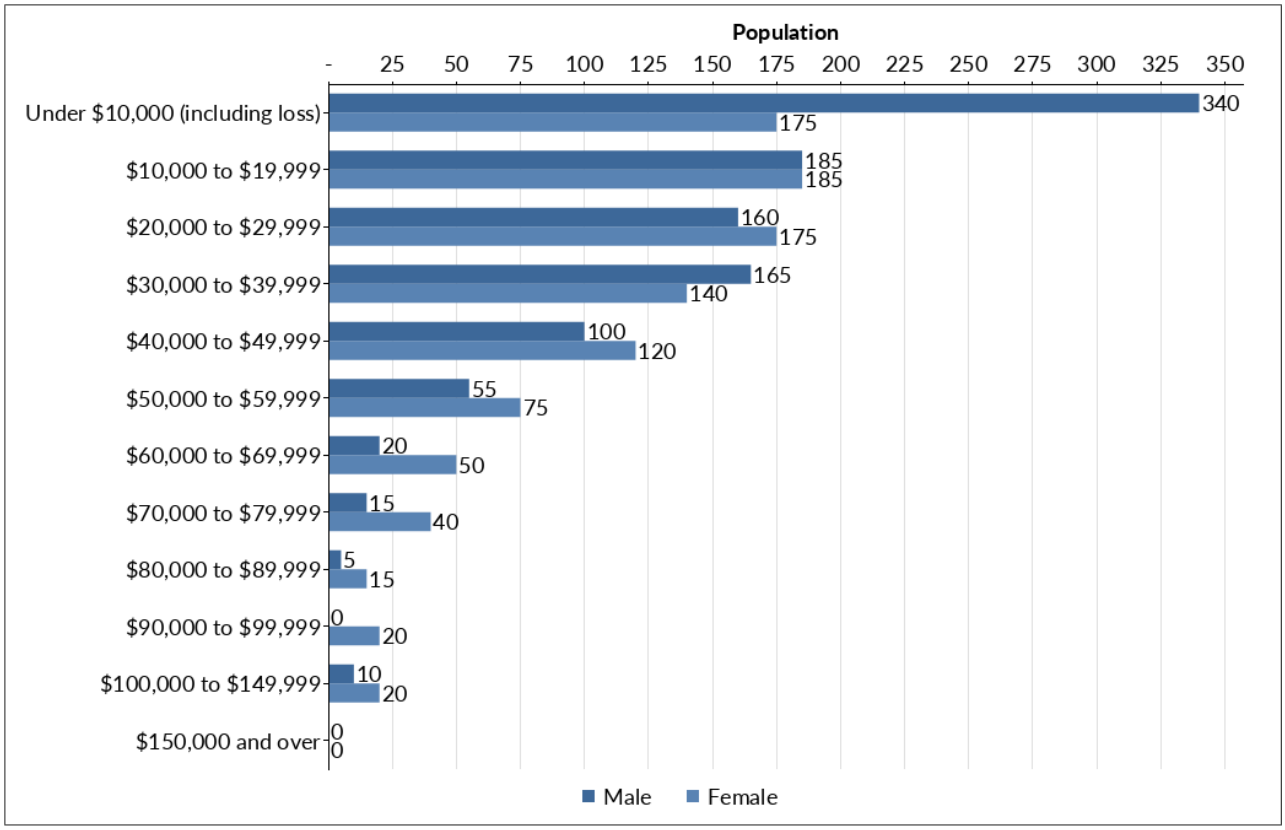
- Attawapiskat First Nation;
- Eabametoong First Nation;
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation; and
- Nibinamik First Nation.

A summary of total individual income by group for population ages 15 years and over for other LSA communities is provided below:

- The largest individual income group for males is under $10,000 (including loss[29]) with a total of 340 individuals across the LSA Indigenous communities in this category. This accounts for 32.2% of income earning males within the LSA;
- The largest individual income group for females is $10,000 to $19,999 with 185 across the LSA Indigenous communities in this category. This accounts for 18.2% of income earning females within the LSA;
- In 2020, there were 40 more males than females with individual incomes;
- In 2020, 2% of females were making between $100,000 to $149,000, all of which were located in Attawapiskat First Nation, this is the highest reported income bracket; and
- In 2020, 0.9% of males were making between $100,000 to $149,000, all of which were located in Attawapiskat First Nation, this is the highest reported income bracket.

[29] For individuals, total income refers to the income received from market income and government transfers. Income loss can occur when a self-employed individual has higher business expenses than their gross income.

Figure 6-22: Total Individual Income by Group for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Notes:

- All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Nibinamik First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, and Attawapiskat First Nation.
- Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation are excluded due to unavailability of data.

Table 6-15: Total Individual Income by Group for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2020)

Community	Income Group	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Under $10,000 (including loss)	35	17.9%	35	35.0%	5	5.0%
	$10,000 to $19,999	40	20.5%	15	15.0%	20	20.0%
	$20,000 to $29,999	40	20.5%	15	15.0%	25	25.0%
	$30,000 to $39,999	25	12.8%	15	15.0%	15	15.0%
	$40,000 to $49,999	30	15.4%	10	10.0%	20	20.0%
	$50,000 to $59,999	20	10.3%	10	10.0%	10	10.0%
	$60,000 to $69,999	5	2.6%	-	0.0%	5	5.0%
	$70,000 to $79,999	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	$80,000 to $89,999	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%

Community	Income Group	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
	$90,000 to $99,999	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	$100,000 to $149,999	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	$150,000 and over	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	**195**	**100%**	**100**	**100%**	**100**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Under $10,000 (including loss)	165	27.3%	115	34.8%	50	18.9%
	$10,000 to $19,999	100	16.5%	45	13.6%	50	18.9%
	$20,000 to $29,999	95	15.7%	55	16.7%	40	15.1%
	$30,000 to $39,999	100	16.5%	50	15.2%	50	18.9%
	$40,000 to $49,999	60	9.9%	40	12.1%	25	9.4%
	$50,000 to $59,999	35	5.8%	10	3.0%	20	7.5%
	$60,000 to $69,999	30	5.0%	5	1.5%	20	7.5%
	$70,000 to $79,999	20	3.3%	10	3.0%	10	3.8%
	$80,000 to $89,999	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	$90,000 to $99,999	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	$100,000 to $149,999	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	$150,000 and over	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	**605**	**100%**	**330**	**100%**	**265**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Under $10,000 (including loss)	150	27.5%	100	40.8%	55	19.3%
	$10,000 to $19,999	70	12.8%	40	16.3%	30	10.5%
	$20,000 to $29,999	90	16.5%	35	14.3%	55	19.3%
	$30,000 to $39,999	75	13.8%	30	12.2%	40	14.0%
	$40,000 to $49,999	70	12.8%	25	10.2%	45	15.8%
	$50,000 to $59,999	35	6.4%	15	6.1%	20	7.0%
	$60,000 to $69,999	10	1.8%	-	0.0%	5	1.8%
	$70,000 to $79,999	20	3.7%	-	0.0%	15	5.3%
	$80,000 to $89,999	10	1.8%	-	0.0%	10	3.5%
	$90,000 to $99,999	10	1.8%	-	0.0%	10	3.5%
	$100,000 to $149,999	5	0.9%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	$150,000 and over	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	**545**	**100%**	**245**	**100%**	**285**	**100%**

Community	Income Group	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Attawapiskat First Nation	Under $10,000 (including loss)	150	19.9%	90	23.7%	65	17.8%
	$10,000 to $19,999	170	22.5%	85	22.4%	85	23.3%
	$20,000 to $29,999	115	15.2%	55	14.5%	55	15.1%
	$30,000 to $39,999	110	14.6%	70	18.4%	35	9.6%
	$40,000 to $49,999	60	7.9%	25	6.6%	30	8.2%
	$50,000 to $59,999	40	5.3%	20	5.3%	25	6.8%
	$60,000 to $69,999	40	5.3%	15	3.9%	20	5.5%
	$70,000 to $79,999	25	3.3%	5	1.3%	15	4.1%
	$80,000 to $89,999	15	2.0%	5	1.3%	5	1.4%
	$90,000 to $99,999	5	0.7%	-	0.0%	10	2.7%
	$100,000 to $149,999	25	3.3%	10	2.6%	20	5.5%
	$150,000 and over	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	**755**	**100%**	**380**	**100%**	**365**	**100%**
Total	Under $10,000 (including loss)	500	23.8%	340	32.2%	175	17.2%
	$10,000 to $19,999	380	18.1%	185	17.5%	185	18.2%
	$20,000 to $29,999	340	16.2%	160	15.2%	175	17.2%
	$30,000 to $39,999	310	14.8%	165	15.6%	140	13.8%
	$40,000 to $49,999	220	10.5%	100	9.5%	120	11.8%
	$50,000 to $59,999	130	6.2%	55	5.2%	75	7.4%
	$60,000 to $69,999	85	4.0%	20	1.9%	50	4.9%
	$70,000 to $79,999	65	3.1%	15	1.4%	40	3.9%
	$80,000 to $89,999	25	1.2%	5	0.5%	15	1.5%
	$90,000 to $99,999	15	0.7%	-	0.0%	20	2.0%
	$100,000 to $149,999	30	1.4%	10	0.9%	20	2.0%
	$150,000 and over	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	Total	**2,100**	**100%**	**1,055**	**100%**	**1,015**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

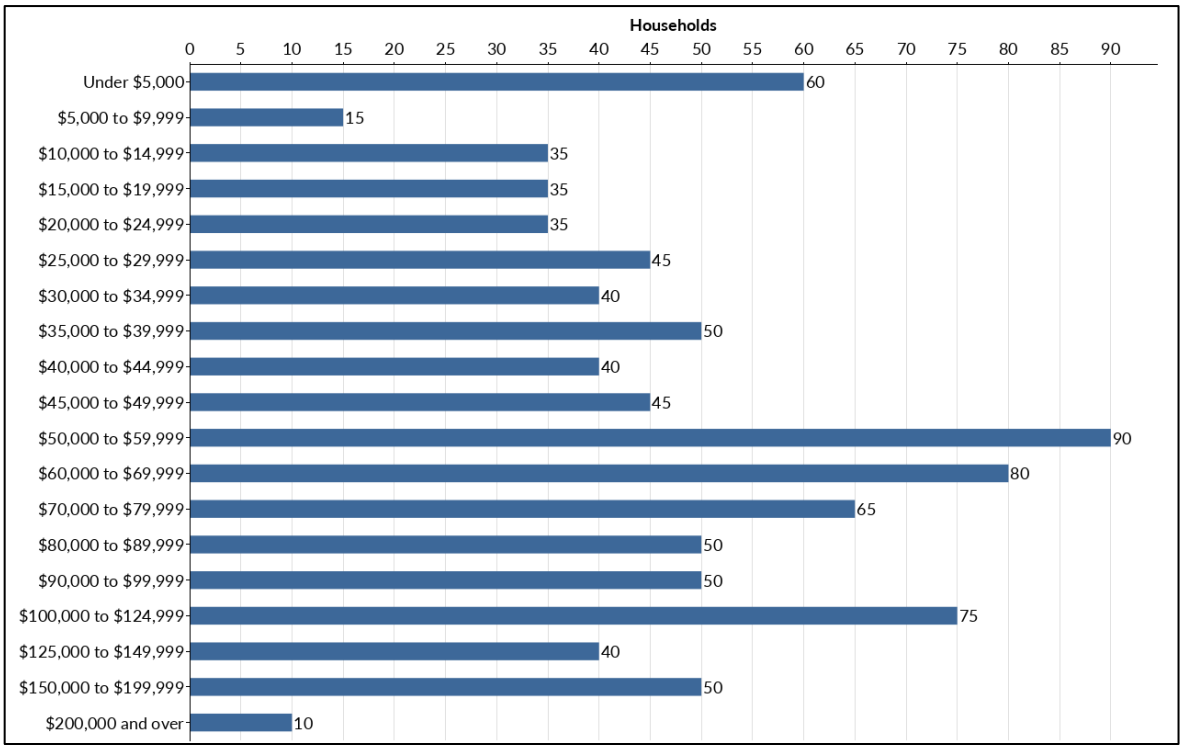
Notes:

- All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.
- Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation are excluded due to unavailability of data.

Figure 6-23 and **Table 6-16** present the total household income for private households in 2020 in other Indigenous communities in the LSA. A summary of the table is as follows:

- The majority of households have an income level between $50,000 to $59,999; and
- Approximately 50% of households bring in under $60,000 (53.8%) while the other half bring in over $60,000 (46.2%).

Figure 6-23: Total Household Income Groups for Private Households in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Notes:

- All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Nibinamik First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, and Attawapiskat First Nation.
- Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation are excluded due to unavailability of data.

Table 6-16: Total Household Income Groups for Private Households in Other Indigenous Communities in LSA (2020)

Community	Household Income	Count	Distribution
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	Under $5,000	5	5.9%
	$5,000 to $9,999	0	0.0%
	$10,000 to $14,999	0	0.0%
	$15,000 to $19,999	10	11.8%
	$20,000 to $24,999	0	0.0%
	$25,000 to $29,999	5	5.9%
	$30,000 to $34,999	5	5.9%
	$35,000 to $39,999	0	0.0%
	$40,000 to $44,999	0	0.0%
	$45,000 to $49,999	5	5.9%
	$50,000 to $59,999	15	17.6%
	$60,000 to $69,999	15	17.6%
	$70,000 to $79,999	10	11.8%
	$80,000 to $89,999	0	0.0%
	$90,000 to $99,999	5	5.9%
	$100,000 to $124,999	10	11.8%
	$125,000 to $149,999	0	0.0%
	$150,000 to $199,999	0	0.0%
	$200,000 and over	0	0.0%
	Total	**85**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Under $5,000	10	4.7%
	$5,000 to $9,999	0	0.0%
	$10,000 to $14,999	10	4.7%
	$15,000 to $19,999	0	0.0%
	$20,000 to $24,999	10	4.7%
	$25,000 to $29,999	10	4.7%
	$30,000 to $34,999	10	4.7%
	$35,000 to $39,999	10	4.7%
	$40,000 to $44,999	10	4.7%
	$45,000 to $49,999	5	2.3%
	$50,000 to $59,999	20	9.3%
	$60,000 to $69,999	20	9.3%
	$70,000 to $79,999	20	9.3%
	$80,000 to $89,999	10	4.7%

Community	Household Income	Count	Distribution
	$90,000 to $99,999	15	7.0%
	$100,000 to $124,999	25	11.6%
	$125,000 to $149,999	10	4.7%
	$150,000 to $199,999	15	7.0%
	$200,000 and over	5	2.3%
	Total	**215**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	Under $5,000	15	6.1%
	$5,000 to $9,999	10	4.1%
	$10,000 to $14,999	10	4.1%
	$15,000 to $19,999	10	4.1%
	$20,000 to $24,999	10	4.1%
	$25,000 to $29,999	10	4.1%
	$30,000 to $34,999	5	2.0%
	$35,000 to $39,999	20	8.2%
	$40,000 to $44,999	20	8.2%
	$45,000 to $49,999	10	4.1%
	$50,000 to $59,999	25	10.2%
	$60,000 to $69,999	15	6.1%
	$70,000 to $79,999	15	6.1%
	$80,000 to $89,999	20	8.2%
	$90,000 to $99,999	10	4.1%
	$100,000 to $124,999	15	6.1%
	$125,000 to $149,999	15	6.1%
	$150,000 to $199,999	10	4.1%
	$200,000 and over	0	0.0%
	Total	**245**	**100%**
Attawapiskat First Nation	Under $5,000	30	8.2%
	$5,000 to $9,999	5	1.4%
	$10,000 to $14,999	15	4.1%
	$15,000 to $19,999	15	4.1%
	$20,000 to $24,999	15	4.1%
	$25,000 to $29,999	20	5.5%
	$30,000 to $34,999	20	5.5%
	$35,000 to $39,999	20	5.5%
	$40,000 to $44,999	10	2.7%
	$45,000 to $49,999	25	6.8%

Community	Household Income	Count	Distribution
	$50,000 to $59,999	30	8.2%
	$60,000 to $69,999	30	8.2%
	$70,000 to $79,999	20	5.5%
	$80,000 to $89,999	20	5.5%
	$90,000 to $99,999	20	5.5%
	$100,000 to $124,999	25	6.8%
	$125,000 to $149,999	15	4.1%
	$150,000 to $199,999	25	6.8%
	$200,000 and over	5	1.4%
	Total	**365**	**100%**
Total	Under $5,000	60	6.6%
	$5,000 to $9,999	15	1.6%
	$10,000 to $14,999	35	3.8%
	$15,000 to $19,999	35	3.8%
	$20,000 to $24,999	35	3.8%
	$25,000 to $29,999	45	4.9%
	$30,000 to $34,999	40	4.4%
	$35,000 to $39,999	50	5.5%
	$40,000 to $44,999	40	4.4%
	$45,000 to $49,999	45	4.9%
	$50,000 to $59,999	90	9.9%
	$60,000 to $69,999	80	8.8%
	$70,000 to $79,999	65	7.1%
	$80,000 to $89,999	50	5.5%
	$90,000 to $99,999	50	5.5%
	$100,000 to $124,999	75	8.2%
	$125,000 to $149,999	40	4.4%
	$150,000 to $199,999	50	5.5%
	$200,000 and over	10	1.1%
	Total	**910**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Notes:

- All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count.
- Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation are excluded due to unavailability of data.

6.1.1.3.3 GBA+ Considerations

Understanding the current state of employment and the economy in Webequie First Nation helps to identify subpopulations, such as women, youth, and individuals living with disabilities, who might experience disproportionate barriers to employment, and further, who may be at a disadvantage to benefit from a potential increase in employment opportunities associated with the WSR Project due to such barriers.

The majority of Webequie's population is not in the labour force (61.7%). The participation rate for Webequie's working age population (ages 15-64) is 37.9%, with the female participation rate (39.2%) and male participation rate (38.6%) being nearly the same. This participation rate is low compared to Ontario (63%). Of Webequie residents in the labour force, 94.6% are employed. The unemployment rate in Webequie is 5.5% which is roughly on par with Ontario (Statistics Canada, 2022). Business, finance, and administration occupations was the leading job category in Webequie, with 69 jobs in 2022 (Lightcast 2023). This accounted for 22.6% of the total jobs in the community.

Webequie residents are concerned with local employment opportunities, particularly for youth, with 67.6% of Webequie resident respondents sharing they felt there are not enough local job opportunities (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b). Of these respondents, nearly one third (31.6%) were between the ages of 15 to 30. Approximately 69% of unemployed Webequie youth between the ages of 15 to 30 responded that they are searching for work. This suggests that some Webequie youth struggle to find employment in the community.

When asked if they experience barriers in obtaining or maintaining employment, Webequie resident respondents shared they felt lack of education or training (47.5%), childcare (43.4%), and traditional needs (i.e., hunting, fishing, and gathering) (30.3%) were the top three barriers to employment. Approximately 29% of those who noted lack of education or training as a barrier to employment were youth aged 15 to 30, suggesting some Webequie youth struggle to obtain education and training (see **Section 6.1.1.2.3**).

Community members have also expressed concerns regarding a lack of motivation among youth to seek employment (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Webequie members are hopeful that potential development in the area might help improve opportunities in education and employment for younger members (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a; 2022b).

Indigenous women often already face barriers to education and employment due to gender norms, familial responsibilities and lack of childcare options, discrimination, and risks to their personal safety (Dalseg et al., 2018). The impact of patriarchal colonialism and its devaluation of Indigenous women in society cannot be understated when considering the inequalities Indigenous women face (Mckinley, Liddell, & Lilly, 2021). Results from knowledge holder interviews and the women's focus group express community concerns for women's barriers to employment. Participants shared that several women in the community want to work and/or receive training to gain employment, but several barriers stand in their way, the largest of which include a lack of education and childcare responsibilities. Caring for dependents prevents women in Webequie from seeking further education and training as well as employment. Participants felt strongly that if the childcare and education issues could be solved, more women would be involved in the labour force (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). A focus group participant shared that they felt women must work twice as hard as men to prove themselves when it comes to employment (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Approximately 47% of the unemployed females living in the community responded that they are searching for work. Approximately 50% of Webequie resident respondents who noted education or training as a barrier to employment were female, suggesting some women and girls in Webequie experience challenges in obtaining education and training (see **Section 6.1.1.2.3**). Further, when Webequie residents were asked if they experience barriers in obtaining or maintaining employment, more females (73.6%) than males felt childcare was a barrier to employment (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b).

In 2020, the most common individual income groups for Webequie females were "under $10,000 (including loss)" and "$10,000 to $19,999", with 40% of Webequie females falling into these income groups. The most common individual income group for Webequie males was "under $10,000 (including loss)" (Statistics Canada 2022). Colonialism

economically disadvantaged Indigenous peoples in Canada (Paul, 2020). Income inequality persists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada, with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people making less than non-Indigenous people (Wilson & Macdonald, 2010). Further, those living on-reserve typically earn less than those off-reserve (Raphael et al., 2020). These inequalities coupled with being in a remote, northern community and high costs of living have substantial socio-economic impacts on households. In the past, Webequie individuals did not need to depend on employment income for subsistence the way they must today (Webequie First Nation, 2019a). This dependency takes away from members' ability to go out on the land.

The traditional subsistence economy still plays an important role in many Indigenous communities, including Webequie First Nation. The traditional economy is particularly important to those communities which are rural and remote, facing expensive or inaccessible health foods due to the population size and lacking transportation infrastructure and limited formal economic opportunities (NCCIH, 2020). Traditional economic activity is not easily captured by common data sources and thus is not available to provide an understanding of the traditional economy in Webequie First Nation.

The WSR Project has the potential to improve employment and economic opportunities for Webequie First Nation members. However, certain subpopulations of Webequie face additional barriers to taking advantage of such opportunities, including women and youth. As noted in **Section 6.1.1.2.3**, many direct and indirect employment opportunities related to the Project will require education, training, and/or experience. Education and training attainment for Webequie members, particularly women and youth, is a challenge (see **Section 6.1.1.2.3**).

Further, Project-related employment could decrease the time Webequie members have to participate in traditional economic activities. It is anticipated that shifts during the construction phase of the Project will be limited to 14 days on and 7 days off. Webequie members employed by the Project during the construction phase may have limited ability to spend time on the land harvesting as a result (CRIAW, 2014). This presents problems for those who are more likely to depend on the traditional economy, such as Elders who may rely on the sharing economy, as well as challenges the well-being of those employed, as traditional activities can provide individuals with their sense of identity and worth (DesBrisay, 1994).

6.1.2 Regional Study Area

The RSA is comprised of three census divisions: Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District. Within these divisions there are 114 census sub-divisions which include 72 Indigenous communities (Statistics Canada, 2022a). The Districts are inclusive of the 22 RSA Indigenous communities with the majority existing withing the Kenora District.

Common themes throughout the RSA are a decline in the projected working age population over the projection period, lower unemployment rates in comparison to Ontario, lower participation rates in comparison to Ontario, and similar pursuits for post-secondary education (Statistics Canada, 2022a). All three Districts also share the same largest individual income group ($20,000 and $29,999) and household income group ($100,000 to $124,999) (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The working age population in the Kenora District is projected to decline over the projection period from 41,115 in 2021 to 38,152 by 2043 (Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a). The unemployment rate within the District is lower than Ontario at just under 9%, however, the participation rate is 57% in comparison to 63% for Ontario (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The Kenora District population has the lowest percentage of population with post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in the RSA at 40% (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Over half of the population who pursued post-secondary education studied either architecture, engineering, and related trades, health and related field, or business, management, and public administration (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The working age population in Thunder Bay District is projected to decline over the projection period from 93,095 in 2021 to 81,584 by 2043 (Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a). Within the RSA, the Thunder Bay District has the highest unemployment rate at nearly 11% which is still below the Ontario average. The participation rate in the District is 58% (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The Thunder Bay District has the highest percentage of the population with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in the RSA at 54% (Statistics Canada, 2022a). 60% of the population who pursued post-secondary education studied either architecture, engineering, and related trades, health and related field, or business, management, and public administration (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

The working age population in the Cochrane District is projected to decrease over the projection period from 49,715 in 2021 to 39,245 by 2043 (Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a). The unemployment rate in the District was just over 9% with a participation rate of 59%, which is the highest within the RSA, however, still lower than Ontario (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

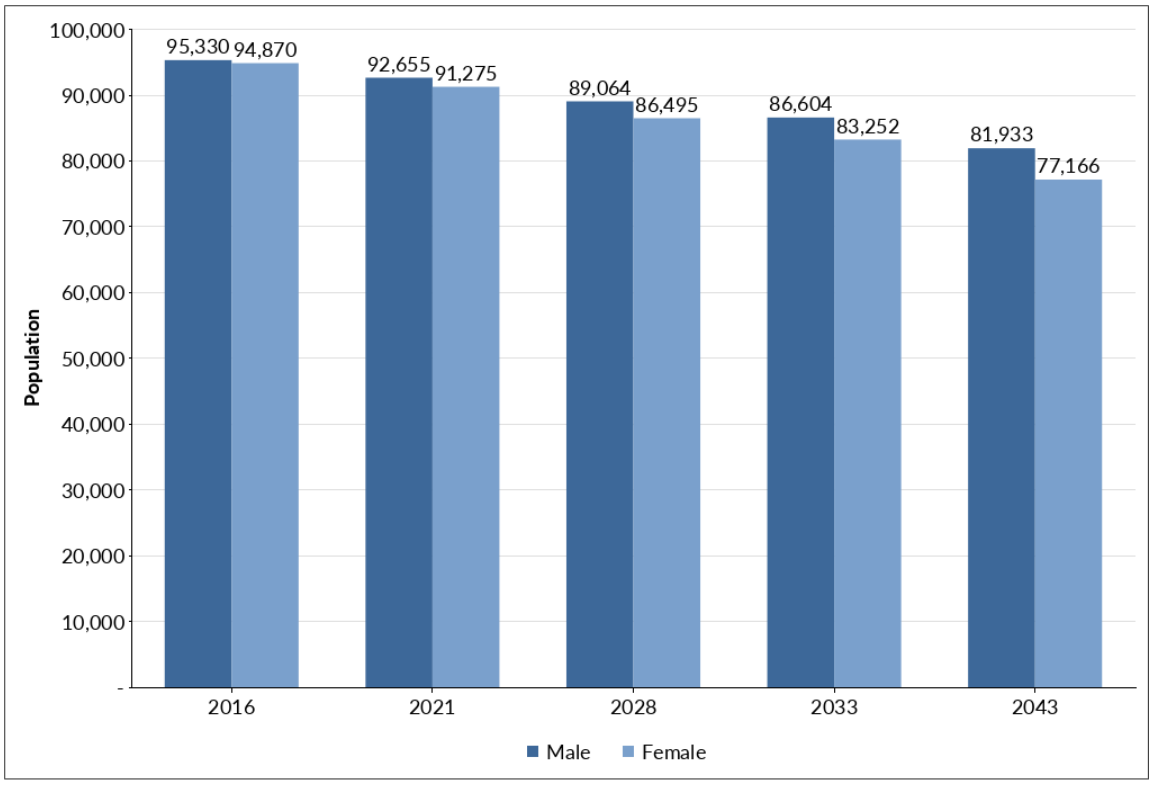
Nearly 50% of the population aged 15 years and over in the Cochrane District have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, 28% of which pursued studies relating to architecture, engineering, and related studies (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

6.1.2.1 Labour Force Characteristics

Figure 6-24 and **Table 6-17** present the forecasted working age population in the RSA over the projection period. The values for 2016 and 2021 are published statistics from the 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census of Population (Statistics Canada 2017, 2022a). The values for 2028, 2023, and 2043 were forecasted based on the 2016 and 2021 data as outlined in **Section 5.1.1.1**. The working age population is defined as those aged 15 to 64. The table is summarized as follows:

- The working age population is decreasing over the projection period;
- Based off current growth trends, the total working age population is forecasted to decrease by 72,461 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 38%;
- Based off current growth trends, the male working age population is forecasted to decrease by 31,143 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 32.7%; and
- Based off current growth trends, the female working age population is forecasted to decrease by 40,814 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 43%.

Figure 6-24: Projected Working Age Population in RSA (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Table 6-17: Projected Working Age Population in RSA (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

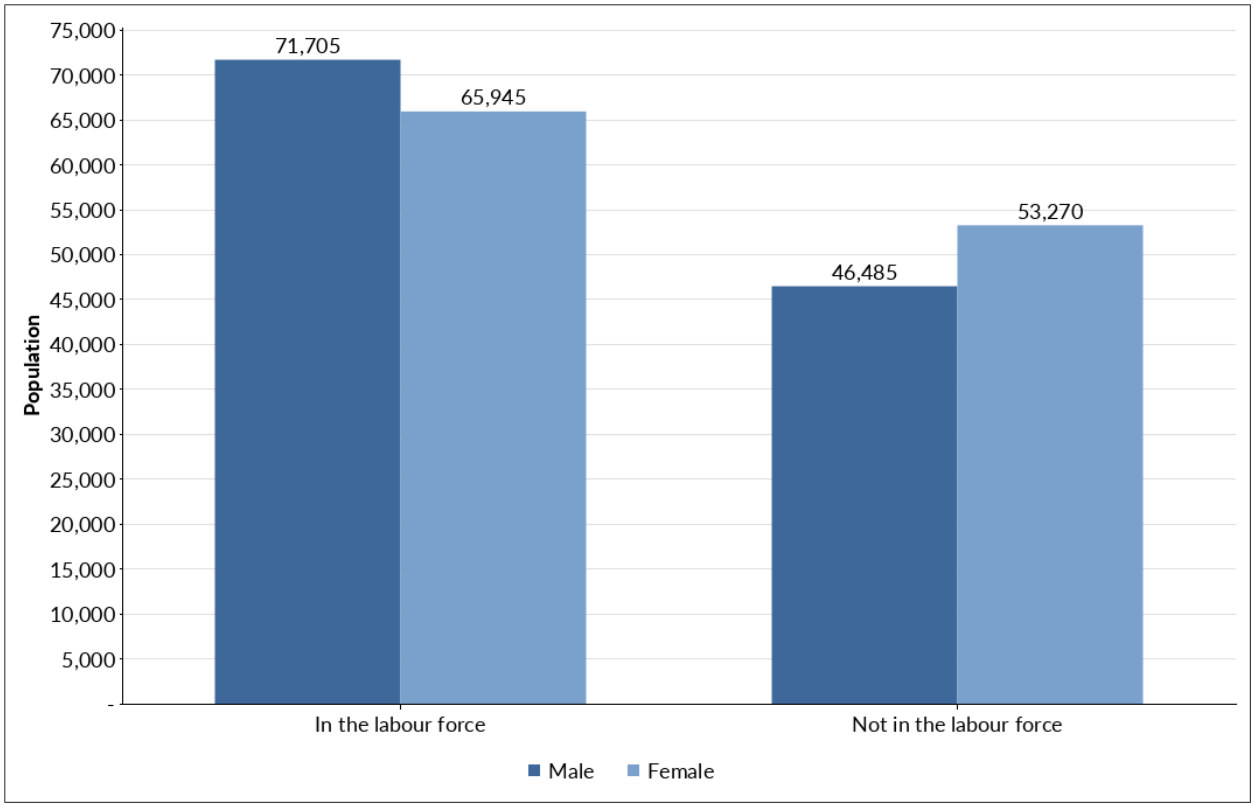
Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	190,210	100%	95,330	50.1%	94,870	49.9%
2021	183,925	100%	92,655	50.4%	91,275	49.6%
2028	159,593	100%	82,441	51.7%	77,261	48.4%
2033	144,210	100%	75,843	52.6%	68,589	47.6%
2043	117,749	100%	64,187	54.5%	54,056	45.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Figure 6-25 and **Table 6-18** present the breakdown of the population in the labour force and those not in the labour force:

- The majority of the RSA population is in the labour force. Females account for approximately 48% of this group while males account for 42%;
- The participation rate for the total working age population is 74.8%;
- The participation rate for males is 77.4%; and
- The participation rate for females is 72.2%.

Figure 6-25: Labour Force Participation in RSA (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-18: Labour Force Participation in RSA (2021)

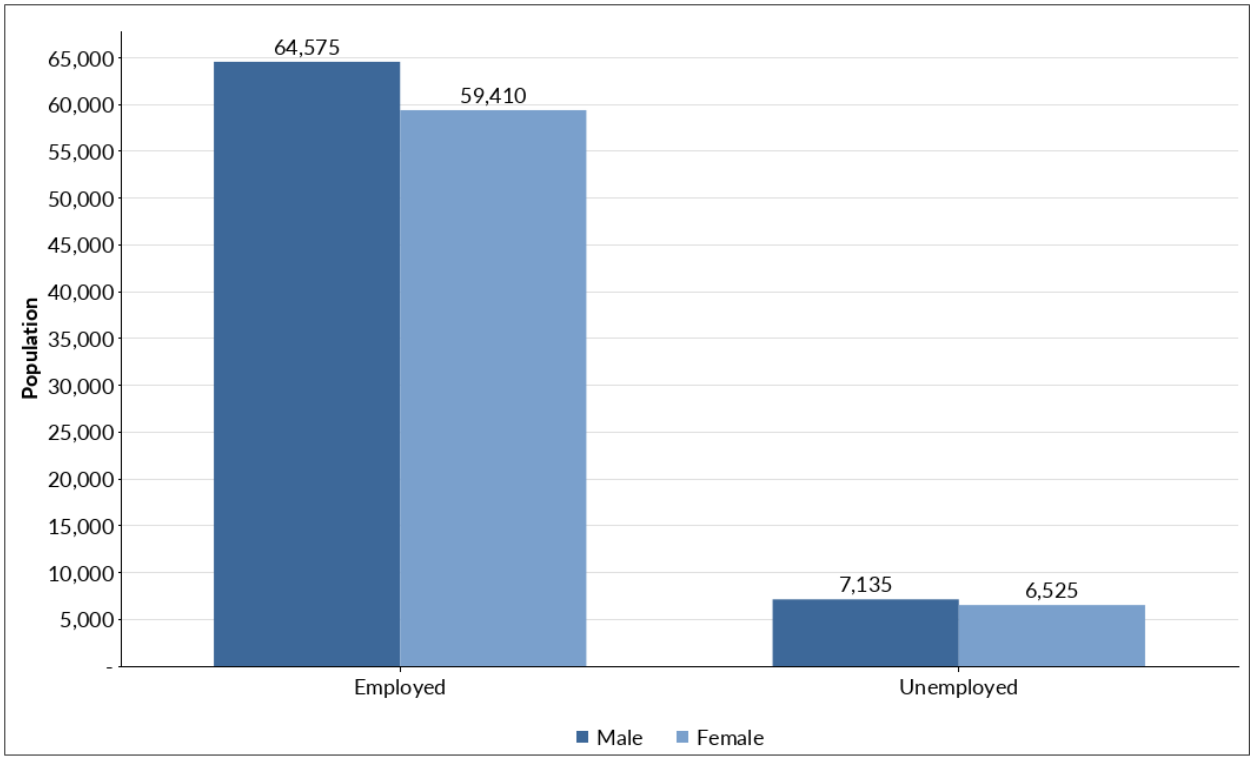
Labour Force Participation	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
In the labour force	137,650	100%	71,705	52.1%	65,945	47.9%
Not in the labour force	99,755	100%	46,485	46.6%	53,270	53.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-26 and **Table 6-19** present the breakdown of the employment status for those classified as in the labour force:

- Of the population classified as in the labour force, 90.1% are employed; and
- The unemployment rate for the RSA labour force is approximately 9.9%.

Figure 6-26: Employment Status of Labour Force in the RSA (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-19: Employment Status of Labour Force in the RSA (2021)

Labour Force Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Employed	123,990	90.1%	64,575	90.1%	59,410	90.1%
Unemployed	13,655	9.9%	7,135	9.9%	6,525	9.9%
Total	**137,645**	**100%**	**71,710**	**100%**	**65,935**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-20 presents the number of jobs by 1-digit NOC[30] code for 2018 and 2022 in the RSA. Summarized as follows:

- Sales and service occupations are the leading job category in the RSA with 32,095 jobs in 2022 which accounts for 23.4% of the total jobs;
- The RSA has seen an increase across 6 occupational categories between 2018 and 2022 with an overall increase in jobs of 3% over the 4 years; and
- The occupational category with the largest percentage increase over the period was health occupations with an 18% increase.

Table 6-20: Occupations by Category in RSA (2018 – 2022)

Occupation Categories	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Business, finance and administration occupations	18,750	19,893	1,143	6%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	7,130	7,871	741	10%
Health occupations	11,449	13,535	2,086	18%
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	19,342	19,803	462	2%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	1,817	1,678	(138)	(8%)
Sales and service occupations	32,932	32,095	(838)	(3%)
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	22,871	23,762	891	4%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	5,070	5,647	577	11%
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	4,538	4,290	(248)	(5%)
Unclassified	2,498	2,473	(25)	(1%)
Management occupations	6,050	5,867	(183)	(3%)
Total	**132,447**	**136,915**	**4,468**	**3%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023a.

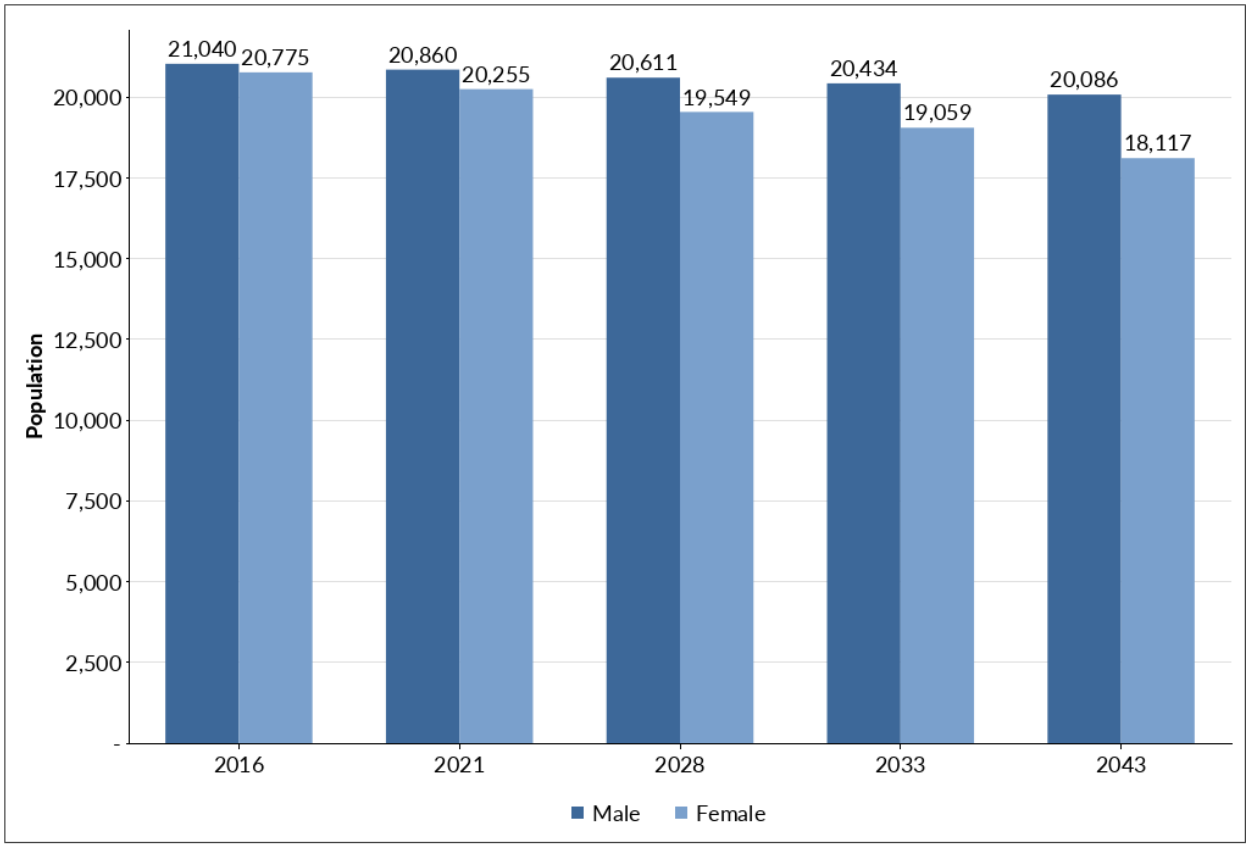
[30] The National Occupational Classification (NOC) is Canada's national system to identify and categorize occupations based on the training, education, experience and responsibilities they require. The structure of NOC codes is hierarchical with five levels. The first level (1-digit) contains 10 broad occupational categories, the second level (2-digit) is made up of 45 major groups, the third level (3-digit) consists of 89 sub-major groups, the fourth level (4-digit) gathers 162 minor groups, and the last level (5-digit) comprises 516 unit groups.

6.1.2.1.1 Kenora District

Figure 6-27 and **Table 6-21** present the forecasted working age population in the Kenora District over the projection period. The values for 2016 and 2021 are published statistics from the 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census of Population (Statistics Canada 2017, 2022). The values for 2028, 2023, and 2043 were forecasted based on the 2016 and 2021 data as outlined in **Section 5.1.1.1**. The working age population is defined as those aged 15 to 64:

- The working age population is decreasing over the projection period; and
- Based off current growth trends, the working age population is forecasted to decrease by 3,668 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 8.8%.

Figure 6-27: Kenora District – Projected Working Age Population (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Table 6-21: Kenora District – Projected Working Age Population (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

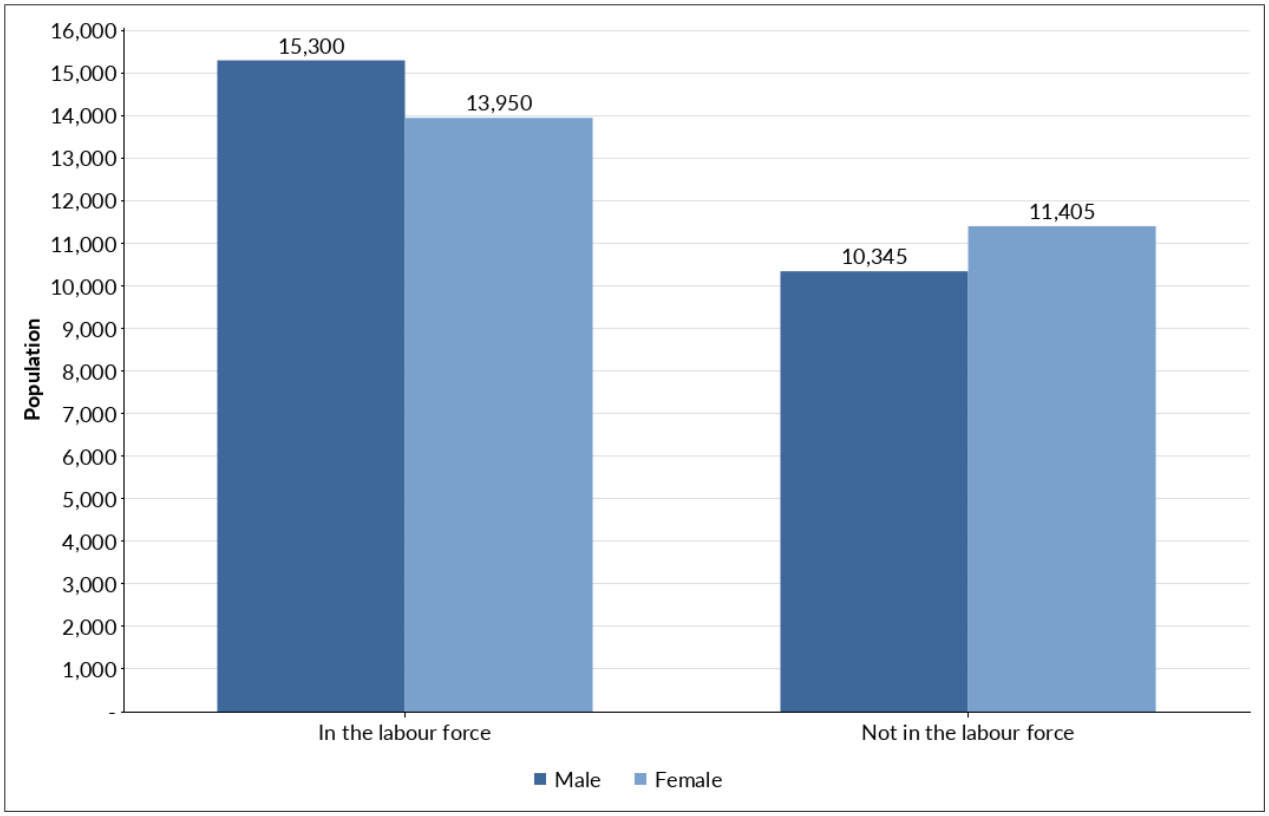
Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	41,820	100%	21,040	50.3%	20,775	49.7%
2021	41,115	100%	20,860	50.7%	20,255	49.3%
2028	40,148	100%	20,611	51.3%	19,549	48.7%
2033	39,471	100%	20,434	51.8%	19,059	48.3%
2043	38,152	100%	20,086	52.6%	18,117	47.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Figure 6-28 and **Table 6-22** present the breakdown of the population in the labour force and those not in the labour force. Summarized as follows:

- The majority of the Kenora District population is in the labour force. Females account for 47.7% of this group while males account for 52.3%;
- The participation rate for the District is 57.3%;
- The participation rate for males is 59.7%; and
- The participation rate for females is 55%.

Figure 6-28: Kenora District – Labour Force Participation (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-22: Kenora District – Labour Force Participation (2021)

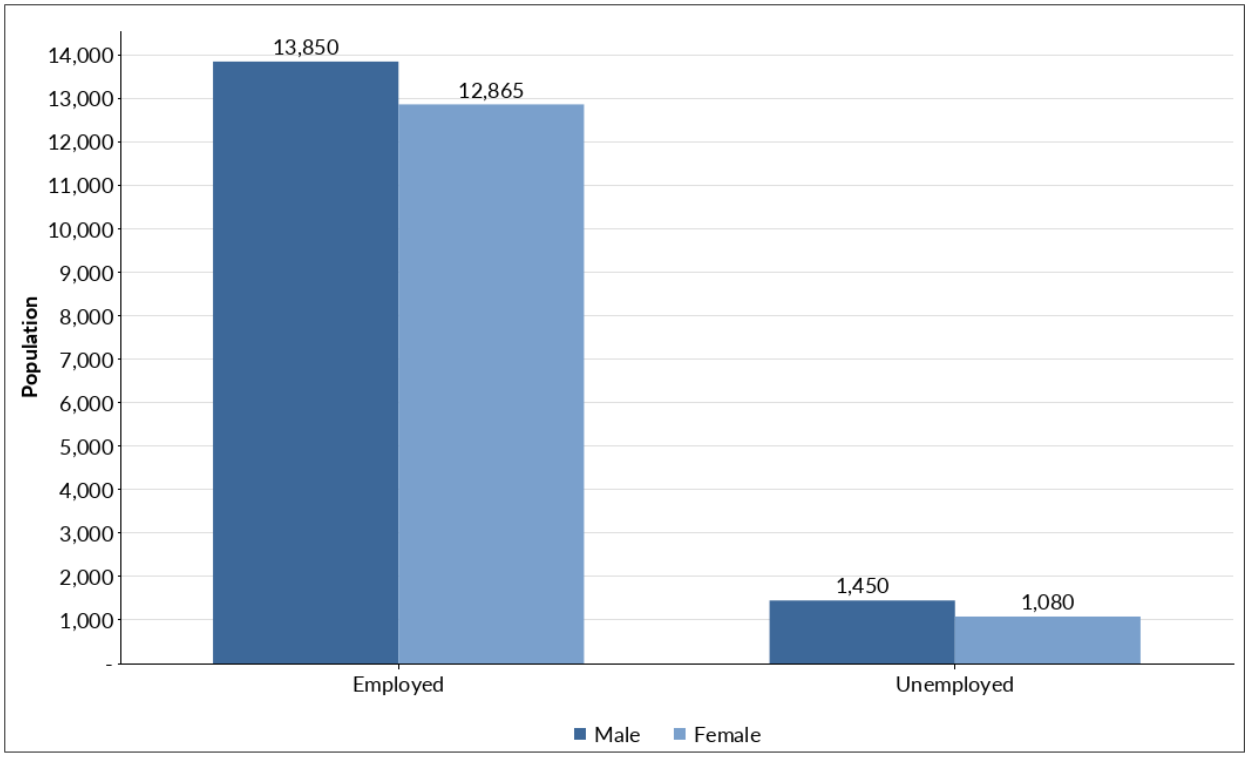
Labour Force Participation	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
In the labour force	29,245	100%	15,300	52.3%	13,950	47.7%
Not in the labour force	21,750	100%	10,345	47.6%	11,405	52.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-29 and **Table 6-23** present the breakdown of the employment status for those classified as in the labour force:

- Of the population classified as in the labour force, 91.3% are employed; and
- The unemployment rate for the Kenora District labour force is approximately 8.7%.

Figure 6-29: Kenora District – Employment Status of Labour Force (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-23: Kenora District – Employment Status of Labour Force (2021)

Labour Force Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Employed	26,715	91.3%	13,850	90.5%	12,865	92.3%
Unemployed	2,530	8.7%	1,450	9.5%	1,080	7.7%
Total	**29,245**	**100%**	**15,300**	**100%**	**13,945**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-24 presents the number of jobs by 1-digit NOC[31] code for 2018 and 2022 in the Kenora District. Summarized as:

- Sales and service occupations is the leading job category in the Kenora District with 6,884 jobs in 2022 which accounts for 21.6% of the total jobs;
- The Kenora District has seen an increase in 7 occupational categories between 2018 and 2022 with an overall increase in jobs of 6% over the 4 years; and
- The occupational category with the largest percentage increase over the period was natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations with a 15% increase.

Table 6-24: Kenora District – Occupations by Category (2018 – 2022)

Occupation Categories	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Business, finance and administration occupations	4,861	5,301	440	9%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	1,448	1,615	167	12%
Health occupations	2,416	2,736	320	13%
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	5,337	5,560	223	4%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	366	317	(49)	(13%)
Sales and service occupations	6,875	6,884	9	0%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	4,907	5,378	471	10%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	1,109	1,271	162	15%
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	839	836	(2)	(0%)
Unclassified	533	533	-	(0%)
Management occupations	1,471	1,430	(41)	(3%)
Total	**30,162**	**31,861**	**1,700**	**6%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023a.

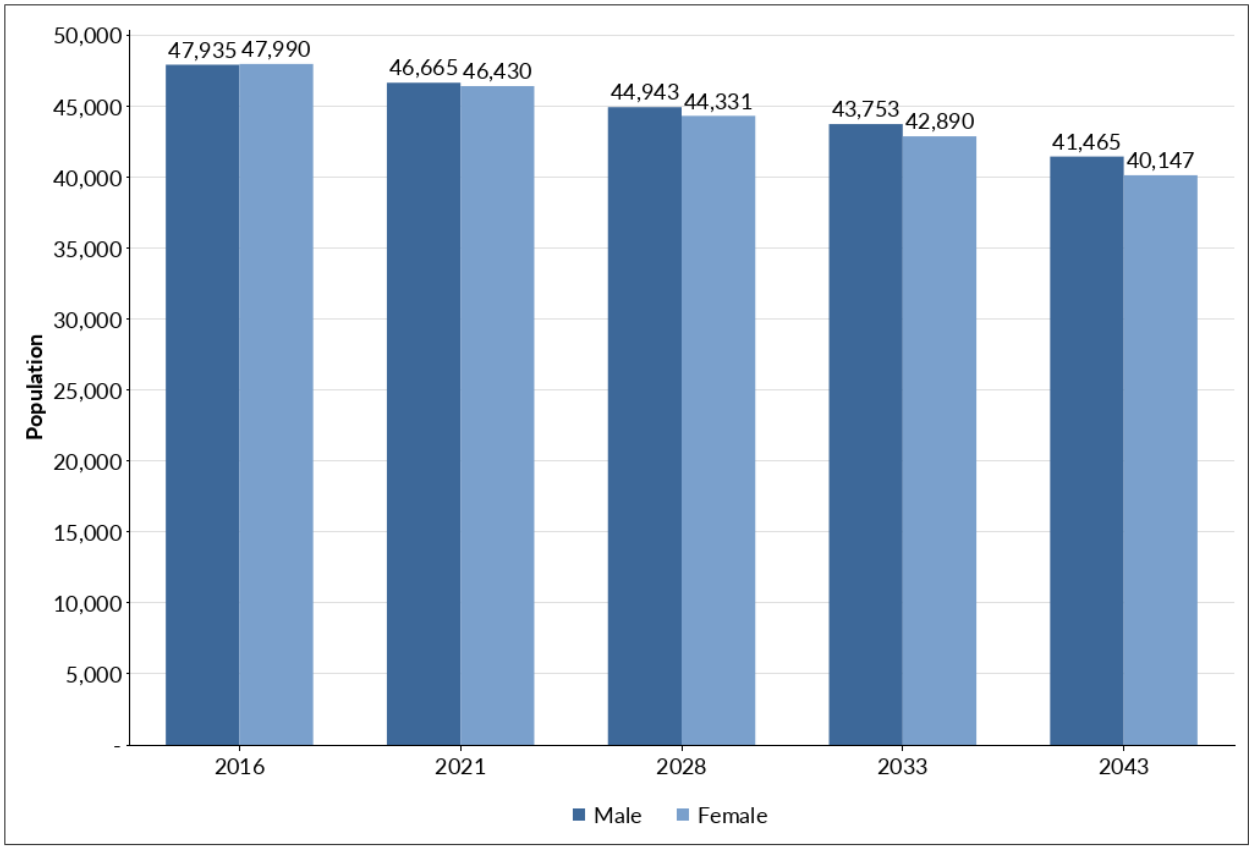
[31] The National Occupational Classification (NOC) is Canada's national system to identify and categorize occupations based on the training, education, experience and responsibilities they require. The structure of NOC codes is hierarchical with five levels. The first level (1-digit) contains 10 broad occupational categories, the second level (2-digit) is made up of 45 major groups, the third level (3-digit) consists of 89 sub-major groups, the fourth level (4-digit) gathers 162 minor groups, and the last level (5-digit) comprises 516 unit groups.

6.1.2.1.2 Thunder Bay District

Figure 6-30 and **Table 6-25** present the forecasted working age population in the Thunder Bay District over the projection period. The values for 2016 and 2021 are published statistics from the 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census of Population (Statistics Canada 2017, 2022). The values for 2028, 2023, and 2043 were forecasted based on the 2016 and 2021 data as outlined in **Section 5.1.1.1**. The working age population is defined as those aged 15 to 64:

- The working age population is decreasing over the projection period; and
- Based off current growth trends, the working age population is forecasted to decrease by 14,346 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 15%.

Figure 6-30: Thunder Bay District – Projected Working Age Population (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Table 6-25: Thunder Bay District – Projected Working Age Population (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

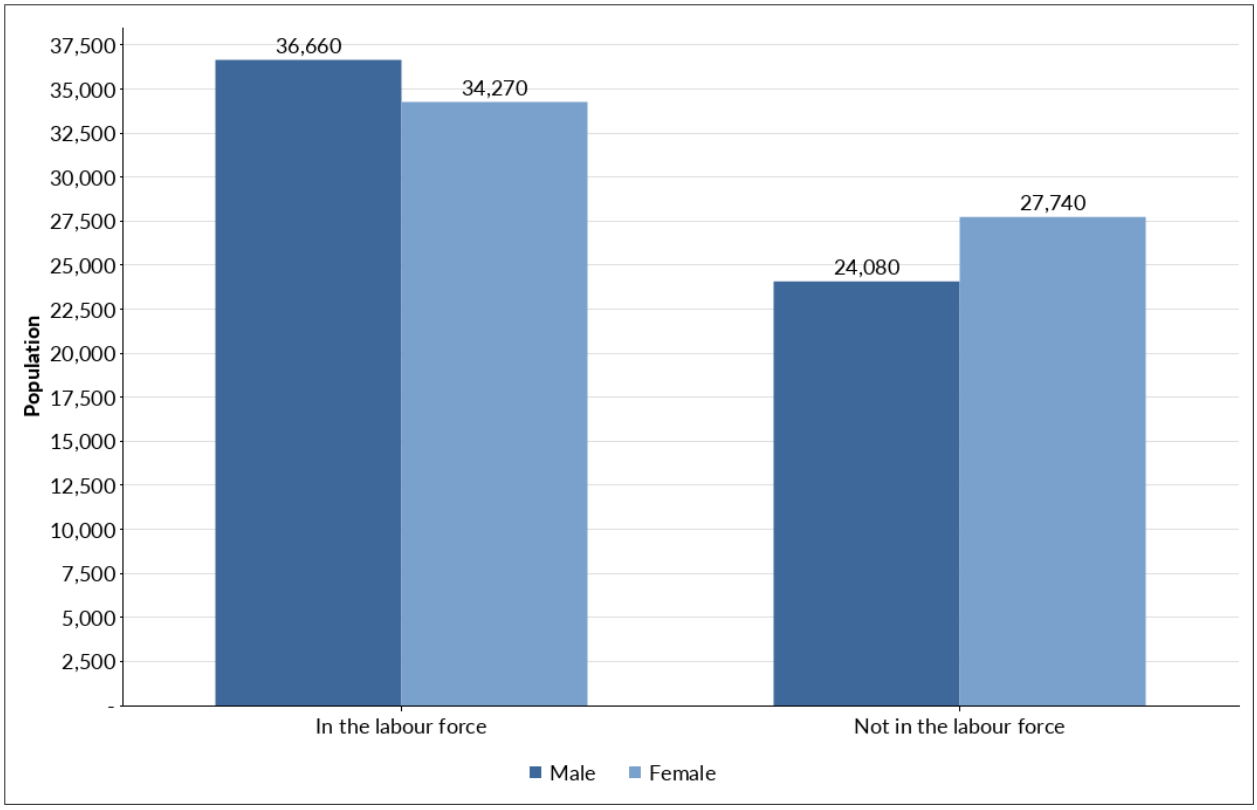
Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	95,930	100%	47,935	50.0%	47,990	50.0%
2021	93,095	100%	46,665	50.1%	46,430	49.9%
2028	89,266	100%	44,943	50.3%	44,331	49.7%
2033	86,628	100%	43,753	50.5%	42,890	49.5%
2043	81,584	100%	41,465	50.8%	40,147	49.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Figure 6-31 and **Table 6-26** present the breakdown of the population in the labour force and those not in the labour force. Summarized as:

- The majority of the Thunder Bay District population is in the labour force. Females account for approximately 48% of this group while males account for 52%;
- The participation rate for the total working age population is 57.8%;
- The participation rate for males is 60.4%; and
- The participation rate for females is 55.3%.

Figure 6-31: Labour Force Participation, Thunder Bay District (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-26: Thunder Bay District – Labour Force Participation (2021)

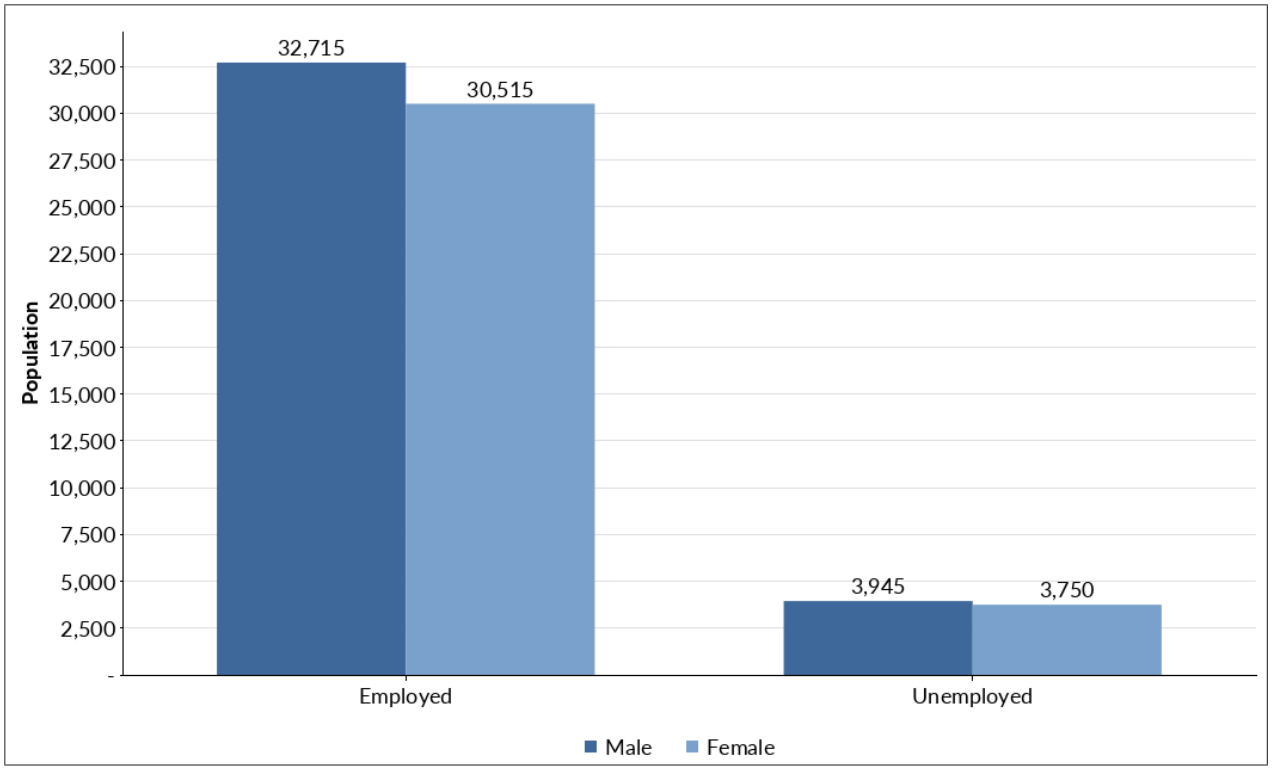
Labour Force Participation	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
In the labour force	70,930	100%	36,660	51.7%	34,270	48.3%
Not in the labour force	51,825	100%	24,080	46.5%	27,740	53.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Figure 6-32 and **Table 6-27** present the breakdown of the employment status for those classified as in the labour force:

- Of the population classified as in the labour force, 89.2% are employed; and
- The unemployment rate for the Thunder Bay District labour force is approximately 10.8%.

Figure 6-32: Thunder Bay District – Employment Status of Labour Force (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-27: Thunder Bay District – Employment Status of Labour Force (2021)

Labour Force Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Employed	63,235	89.2%	32,715	89.2%	30,515	89.1%
Unemployed	7,695	10.8%	3,945	10.8%	3,750	10.9%
Total	**70,930**	**100%**	**36,660**	**100%**	**34,265**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-28 presents the number of jobs by 1-digit NOC[32] code for 2018 and 2022 in Thunder Bay District and summarized as:

- Sales and service occupations is the leading job category in the Thunder Bay District with 17,113 jobs in 2022 which accounts for 25.6% of the total jobs;
- The Thunder Bay District has seen an increase in 6 occupational categories between 2018 and 2022 with an overall increase in jobs of 2% over the 4 years; and
- The occupational category with the largest percentage increase over the period was health occupations with a 21% increase.

Table 6-28: Thunder Bay District – Occupations by Category (2018 – 2022)

Occupation Categories	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Business, finance and administration occupations	8,931	9,215	284	3%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	3,808	4,121	313	8%
Health occupations	6,066	7,320	1,254	21%
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	9,052	9,374	322	4%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	1,041	942	(99)	(10%)
Sales and service occupations	17,902	17,113	(789)	(4%)
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	10,780	11,033	253	2%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	1,538	1,629	91	6%
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	2,229	1,993	(236)	(11%)
Unclassified	1,262	1,236	(25)	(2%)
Management occupations	3,013	2,835	(178)	(6%)
Total	**65,623**	**66,812**	**1,189**	**2%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

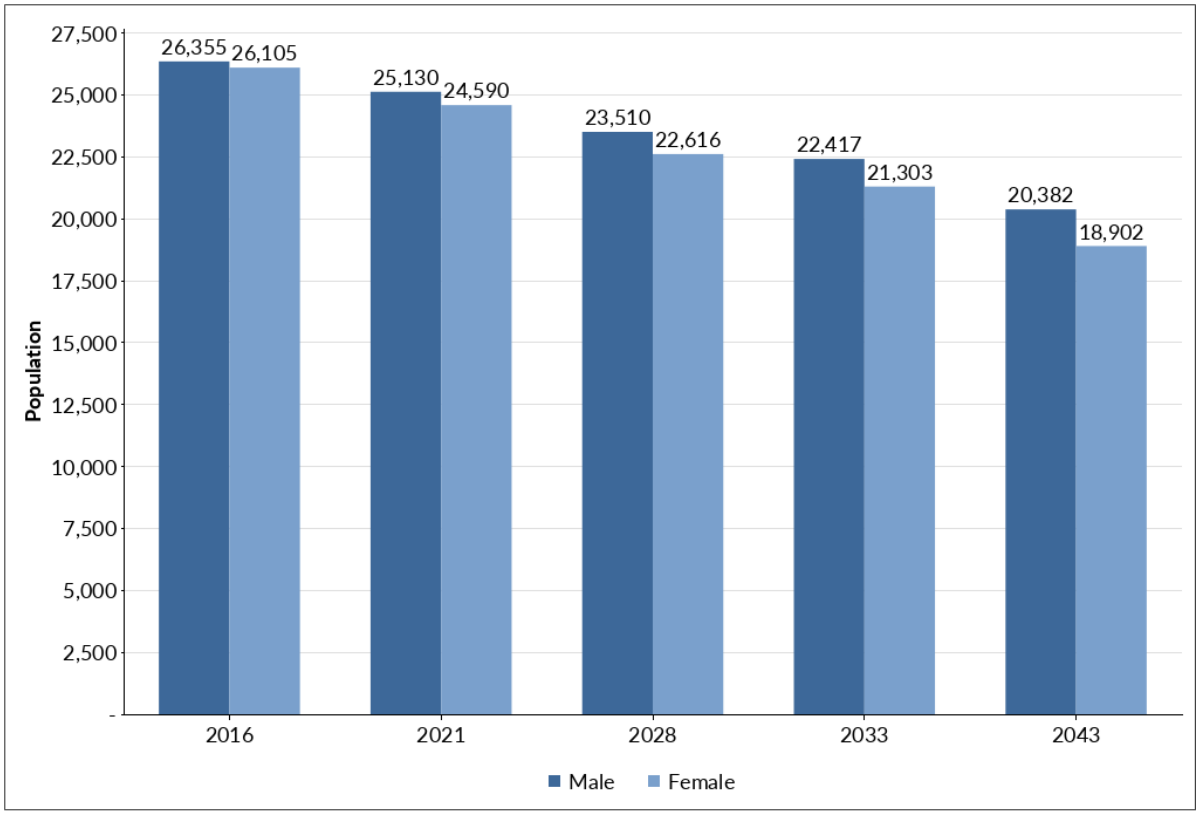
[32] The National Occupational Classification (NOC) is Canada's national system to identify and categorize occupations based on the training, education, experience and responsibilities they require. The structure of NOC codes is hierarchical with five levels. The first level (1-digit) contains 10 broad occupational categories, the second level (2-digit) is made up of 45 major groups, the third level (3-digit) consists of 89 sub-major groups, the fourth level (4-digit) gathers 162 minor groups, and the last level (5-digit) comprises 516 unit groups.

6.1.2.1.3 Cochrane District

Figure 6-33 and **Table 6-29** present the forecasted working age population in the Thunder Bay District over the projection period. The values for 2016 and 2021 are published statistics from the 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census of Population (Statistics Canada 2017, 2022). The values for 2028, 2023, and 2043 were forecasted based on the 2016 and 2021 data as outlined in **Section 5.1.1.1**. The working age population is defined as those aged 15 to 64. Summary overview:

- The working age population is decreasing over the projection period; and
- Based off current growth trends, the working age population is forecasted to decrease by 13,215 between 2016 and 2043, a decline of approximately 25.2%.

Figure 6-33: Cochrane District – Projected Working Age Population (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Table 6-29: Cochrane District – Projected Working Age Population (2016, 2021, 2028, 2033, 2043)

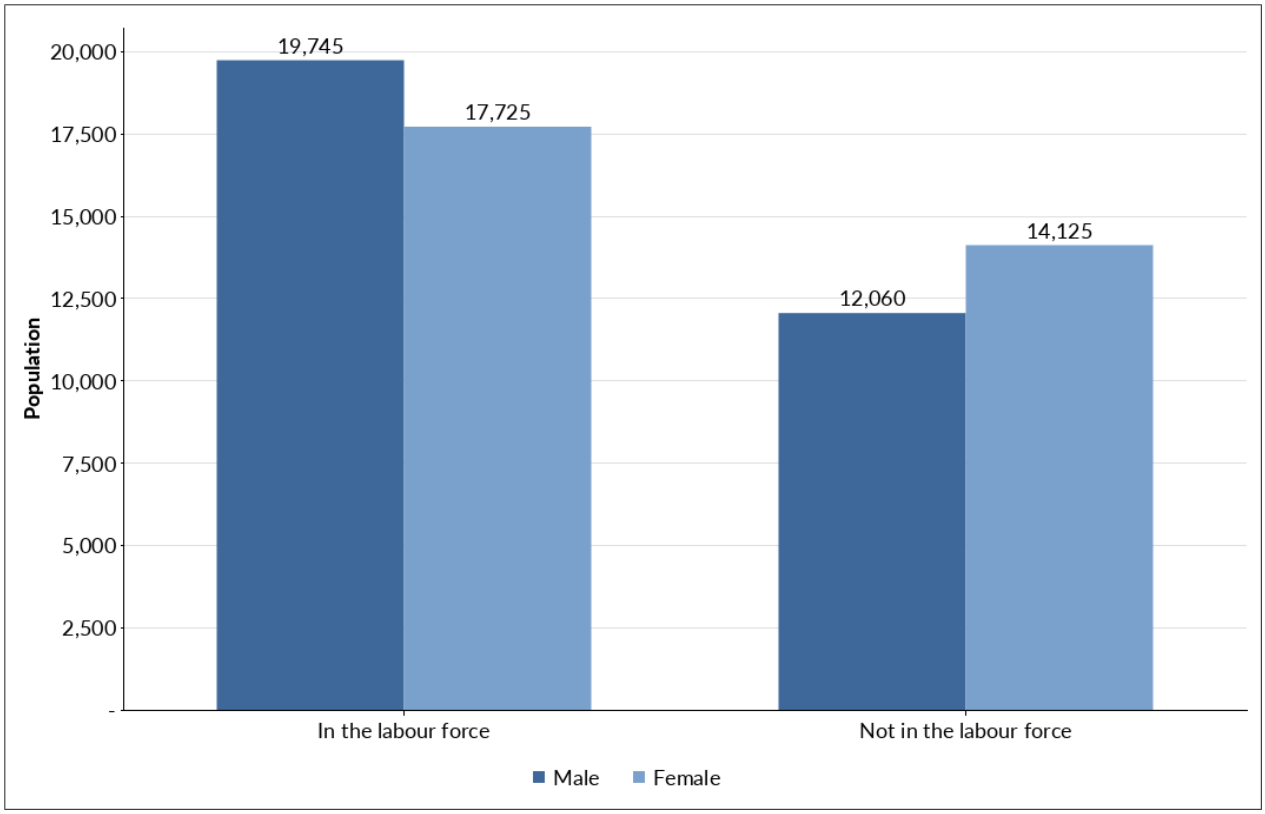
Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
2016	52,460	100%	26,355	50.2%	26,105	49.8%
2021	49,715	100%	25,130	50.5%	24,590	49.5%
2028	46,112	100%	23,510	51.0%	22,616	49.0%
2033	43,699	100%	22,417	51.3%	21,303	48.7%
2043	39,245	100%	20,382	51.9%	18,902	48.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2017; 2022a.

Figure 6-34 and **Table 6-30** present the breakdown of the population in the labour force and those not in the labour force and summarized as:

- The majority of the Cochrane District population is in the labour force. Females account for approximately 47% of this group while males account for 53%;
- The participation rate for the Cochrane District is 58.9%;
- The participation rate for males is 62.1%; and
- The participation rate for females is 55.7%.

Figure 6-34: Cochrane District – Labour Force Participation (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-30: Cochrane District – Labour Force Participation (2021)

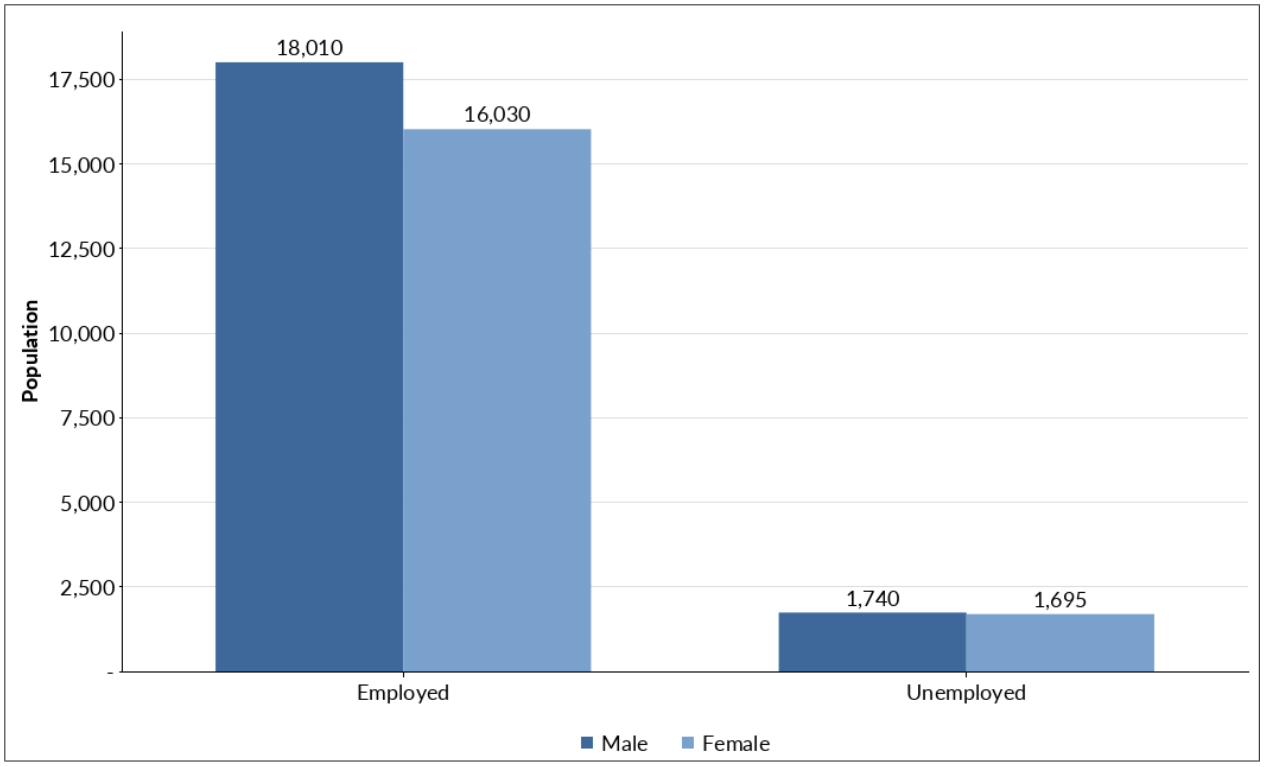
Labour Force Participation	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
In the labour force	37,475	100%	19,745	52.7%	17,725	47.3%
Not in the labour force	26,180	100%	12,060	46.1%	14,125	54.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-35 and **Table 6-31** present the breakdown of the employment status for those classified as in the labour force and summarized as:

- Of the population classified as in the labour force, 90.8% are employed; and
- The unemployment rate for the Cochrane District labour force is approximately 9.2%.

Figure 6-35: Cochrane District – Employment Status of Labour Force (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-31: Cochrane District – Employment Status of Labour Force (2021)

Labour Force Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Employed	34,040	90.8%	18,010	91.2%	16,030	90.4%
Unemployed	3,430	9.2%	1,740	8.8%	1,695	9.6%
Total	**37,470**	**100%**	**19,750**	**100%**	**17,725**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-32 presents the number of jobs by 1-digit NOC[33] code for 2018 and 2022 in Cochrane District and summarized as:

- Sales and service occupations is the leading job category in the Cochrane District with 8,097 jobs in 2022 which accounts for 21.2% of the total jobs;
- The Cochrane District has seen an increase in 7 occupational categories between 2018 and 2022 with an overall increase in jobs of 4% over the 4 years; and
- The occupational category with the largest percentage increase over the period was health occupations with a 17% increase.

Table 6-32: Cochrane District – Occupations by Category (2018 – 2022)

Occupation Categories	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Business, finance and administration occupations	4,959	5,377	418	8%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	1,873	2,134	261	14%
Health occupations	2,967	3,479	513	17%
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	4,953	4,870	(83)	(2%)
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	409	419	10	2%
Sales and service occupations	8,155	8,097	(57)	(1%)
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	7,184	7,351	167	2%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	2,423	2,747	324	13%
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	1,470	1,461	(10)	(1%)
Unclassified	703	704	1	0%
Management occupations	1,566	1,602	36	2%
Total	**36,662**	**38,242**	**1,579**	**4%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

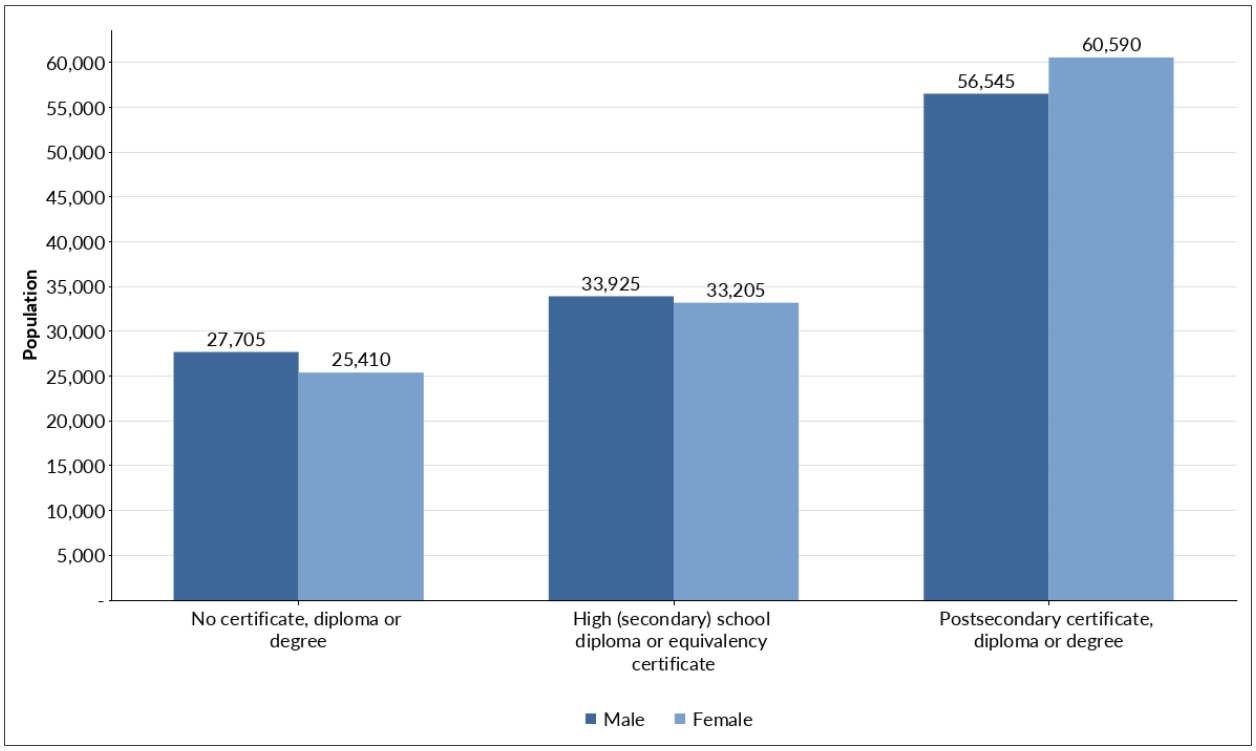
[33] The National Occupational Classification (NOC) is Canada's national system to identify and categorize occupations based on the training, education, experience and responsibilities they require. The structure of NOC codes is hierarchical with five levels. The first level (1-digit) contains 10 broad occupational categories, the second level (2-digit) is made up of 45 major groups, the third level (3-digit) consists of 89 sub-major groups, the fourth level (4-digit) gathers 162 minor groups, and the last level (5-digit) comprises 516 unit groups.

6.1.2.2 Education and Training Attainment

Figure 6-36 and **Table 6-33** present the highest level of educational attainment for the population aged 15 years and over in private household in the RSA for 2021. Summarized as:

- The majority of the population has a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree at 49.3%, within this group females are more likely to have pursued post-secondary in comparison to males; and
- 22.4% of the population aged 15 years and over have no certificate, diploma, or degree, the distribution of females to males within this group is 47.8% and 52.2%, respectively.

Figure 6-36: Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Regional Study Area (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-33: Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Regional Study Area (2021)

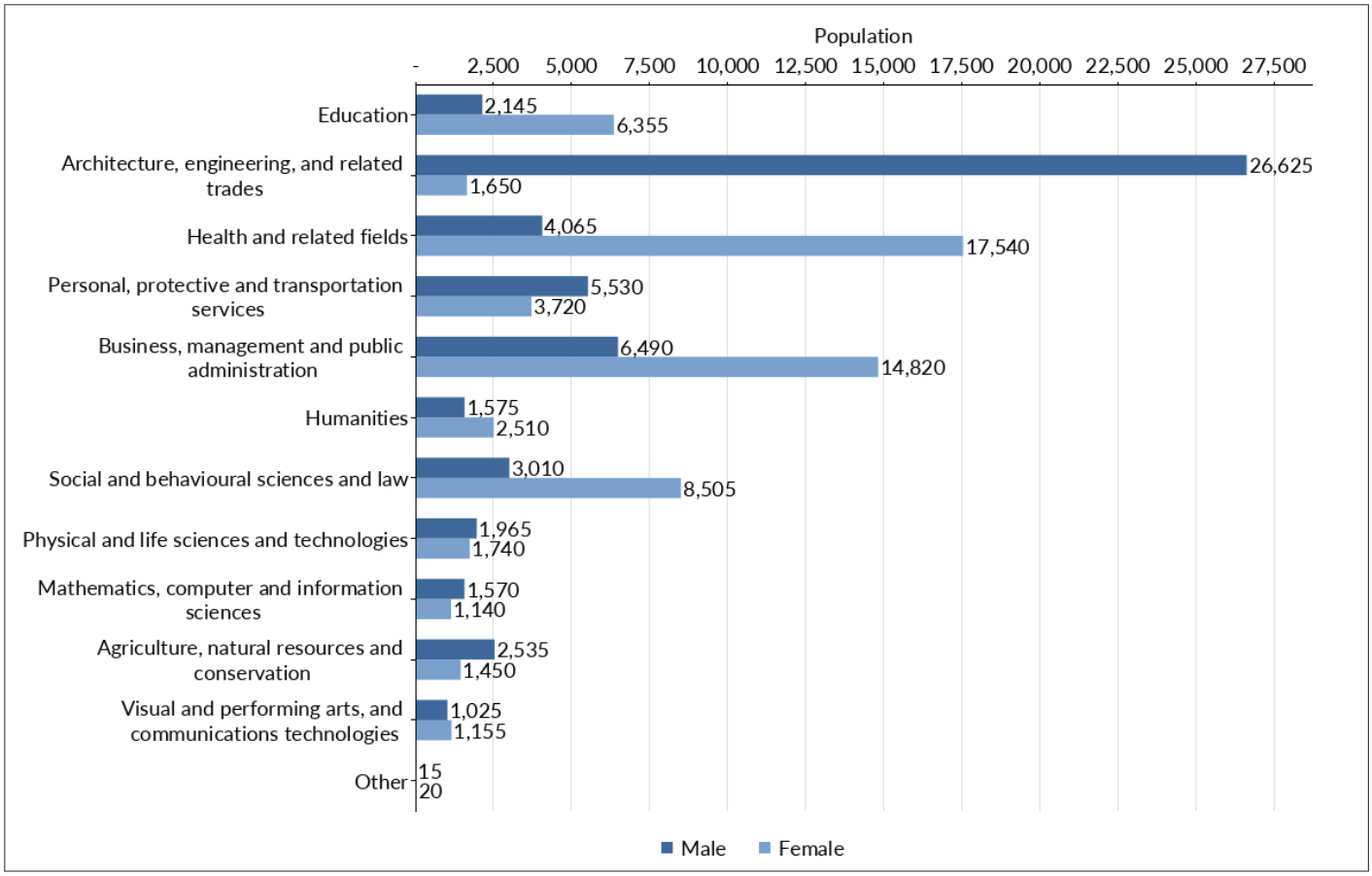
Highest Level of Education	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
No certificate, diploma or degree	53,125	22.4%	27,705	23.4%	25,410	21.3%
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	67,130	28.3%	33,925	28.7%	33,205	27.9%
Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	117,135	49.3%	56,545	47.8%	60,590	50.8%
Total	**237,390**	**100%**	**118,175**	**100%**	**119,205**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-37 and **Table 6-34** present the major fields of study for the population aged 15 and over who obtained a post-secondary education, summarized as:

- The most commonly pursued fields of study within the RSA are architecture, engineering, and related trades at 24.1% with 94.2% male graduates and 5.8% female graduates;
- The fields most commonly studied by females were business, management and public administration with 14,820 graduates; and
- Apart from the "other" category, the least common field of study within the RSA was visual and performing arts, and communications technologies with just 1.9% of total graduates.

Figure 6-37: Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Regional Study Area (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-34: Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Regional Study Area (2021)

Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Education	8,500	7.3%	2,145	3.8%	6,355	10.5%
Architecture, engineering, and related trades	28,275	24.1%	26,625	47.1%	1,650	2.7%
Health and related fields	21,595	18.4%	4,065	7.2%	17,540	28.9%
Personal, protective and transportation services	9,245	7.9%	5,530	9.8%	3,720	6.1%
Business, management and public administration	21,305	18.2%	6,490	11.5%	14,820	24.5%
Humanities	4,095	3.5%	1,575	2.8%	2,510	4.1%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	11,525	9.8%	3,010	5.3%	8,505	14.0%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	3,700	3.2%	1,965	3.5%	1,740	2.9%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	2,710	2.3%	1,570	2.8%	1,140	1.9%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	3,985	3.4%	2,535	4.5%	1,450	2.4%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	2,175	1.9%	1,025	1.8%	1,155	1.9%
Other	30	0.0%	15	0.0%	20	0.0%
Total	**117,140**	**100%**	**56,550**	**100%**	**60,605**	**100%**

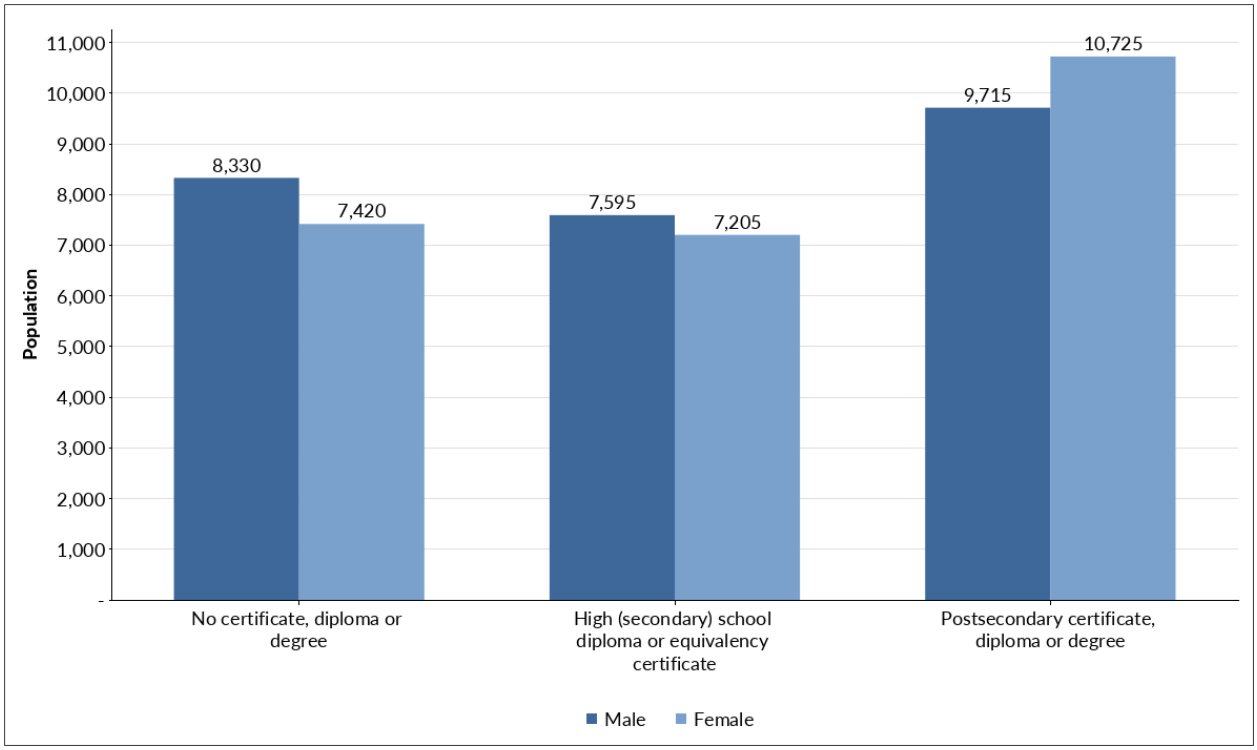
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.1.2.2.1 Kenora District

Figure 6-38 and **Table 6-35** present the highest level of educational attainment for the population aged 15 years and over in private household in the Kenora District for 2021, summary is as follows:

- The majority of the population has a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree at 40.1%, within this group females are more likely to have a degree in comparison to males; and
- 30.9% of the population was no certificate, diploma, or degree at 30.9%. Males account for 52.9% of this group and females 47.1%.

Figure 6-38: Kenora District – Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-35: Kenora District – Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)

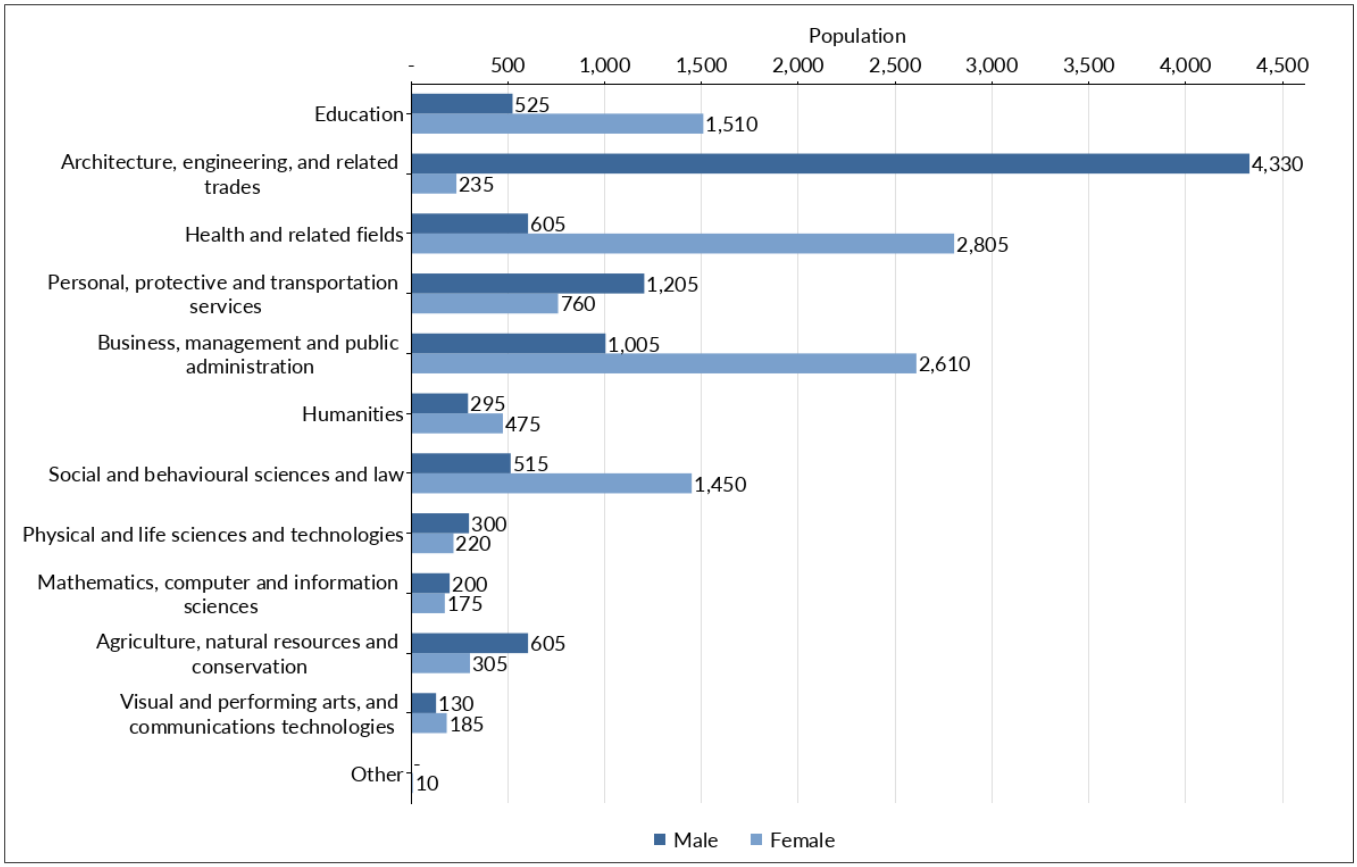
Highest Level of Education	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
No certificate, diploma or degree	15,750	30.9%	8,330	32.5%	7,420	29.3%
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	14,800	29.0%	7,595	29.6%	7,205	28.4%
Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	20,440	40.1%	9,715	37.9%	10,725	42.3%
Total	**50,990**	**100%**	**25,640**	**100%**	**25,350**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-39 and **Table 6-36** present the major fields of study for the population aged 15 and over who obtained a post-secondary education. Summary below:

- The most common fields of study pursued by Kenora District residents were architecture, engineering, and related trades which includes but is not limited to construction trades, precision production, mechanic and repair technology, engineering, and historic preservation and conservation; and
- The major fields of study pursued by Kenora District residents include education, humanities, architecture, engineering, and related trades, and personal, protective, and transportation services.

Figure 6-39: Kenora District – Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-36: Kenora District – Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)

Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Education	2,030	9.9%	525	5.4%	1,510	14.1%
Architecture, engineering, and related trades	4,570	22.4%	4,330	44.6%	235	2.2%
Health and related fields	3,405	16.7%	605	6.2%	2,805	26.1%
Personal, protective and transportation services	1,965	9.6%	1,205	12.4%	760	7.1%
Business, management and public administration	3,610	17.7%	1,005	10.3%	2,610	24.3%
Humanities	770	3.8%	295	3.0%	475	4.4%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	1,970	9.6%	515	5.3%	1,450	13.5%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	515	2.5%	300	3.1%	220	2.0%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	380	1.9%	200	2.1%	175	1.6%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	905	4.4%	605	6.2%	305	2.8%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	315	1.5%	130	1.3%	185	1.7%
Other	10	0.0%	-	0.0%	10	0.1%
Total	**20,445**	**100%**	**9,715**	**100%**	**10,740**	**100%**

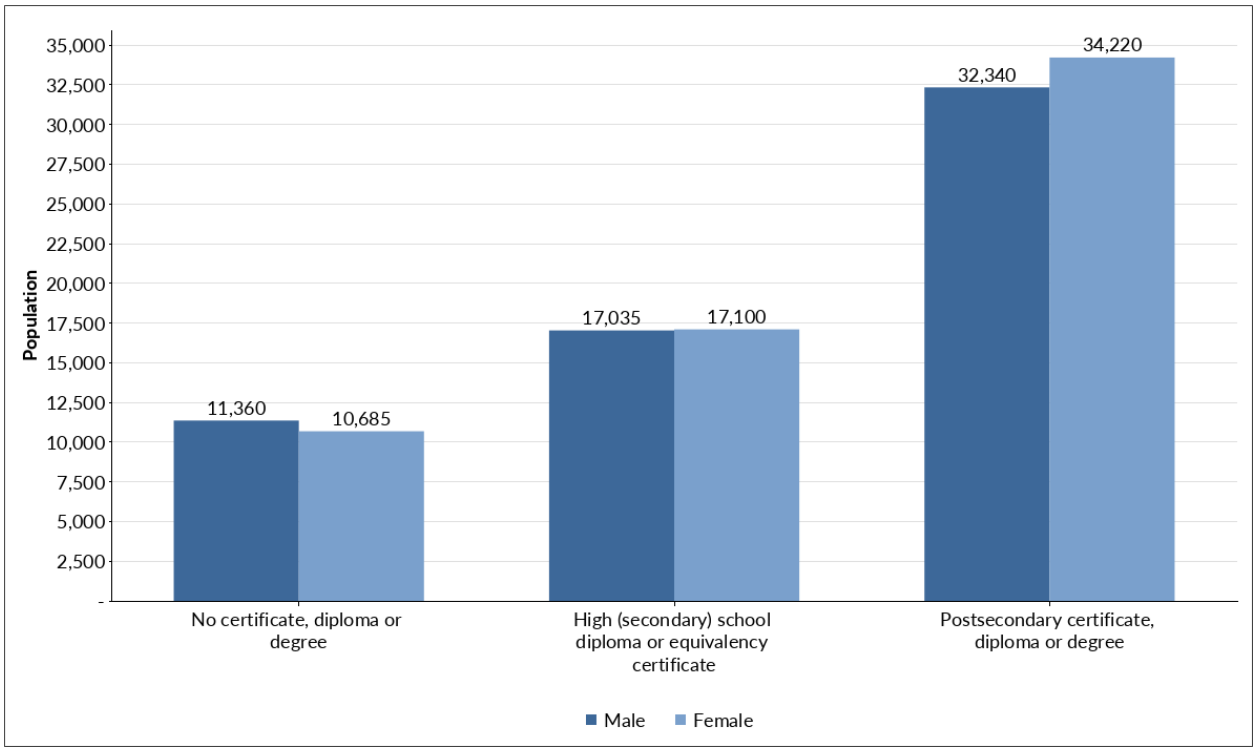
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.1.2.2.2 Thunder Bay District

Figure 6-40 and **Table 6-37** present the highest level of educational attainment for the population aged 15 years and over in private households in the Thunder Bay District for 2021. Summarized as:

- The majority of the population has a certificate, diploma, or degree at 54.2%; and
- 18% of the Thunder Bay District does not have a certificate, diploma, or degree, males make up 51.2% and females account for 48.8%.

Figure 6-40: Thunder Bay District – Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-37: Thunder Bay District – Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)

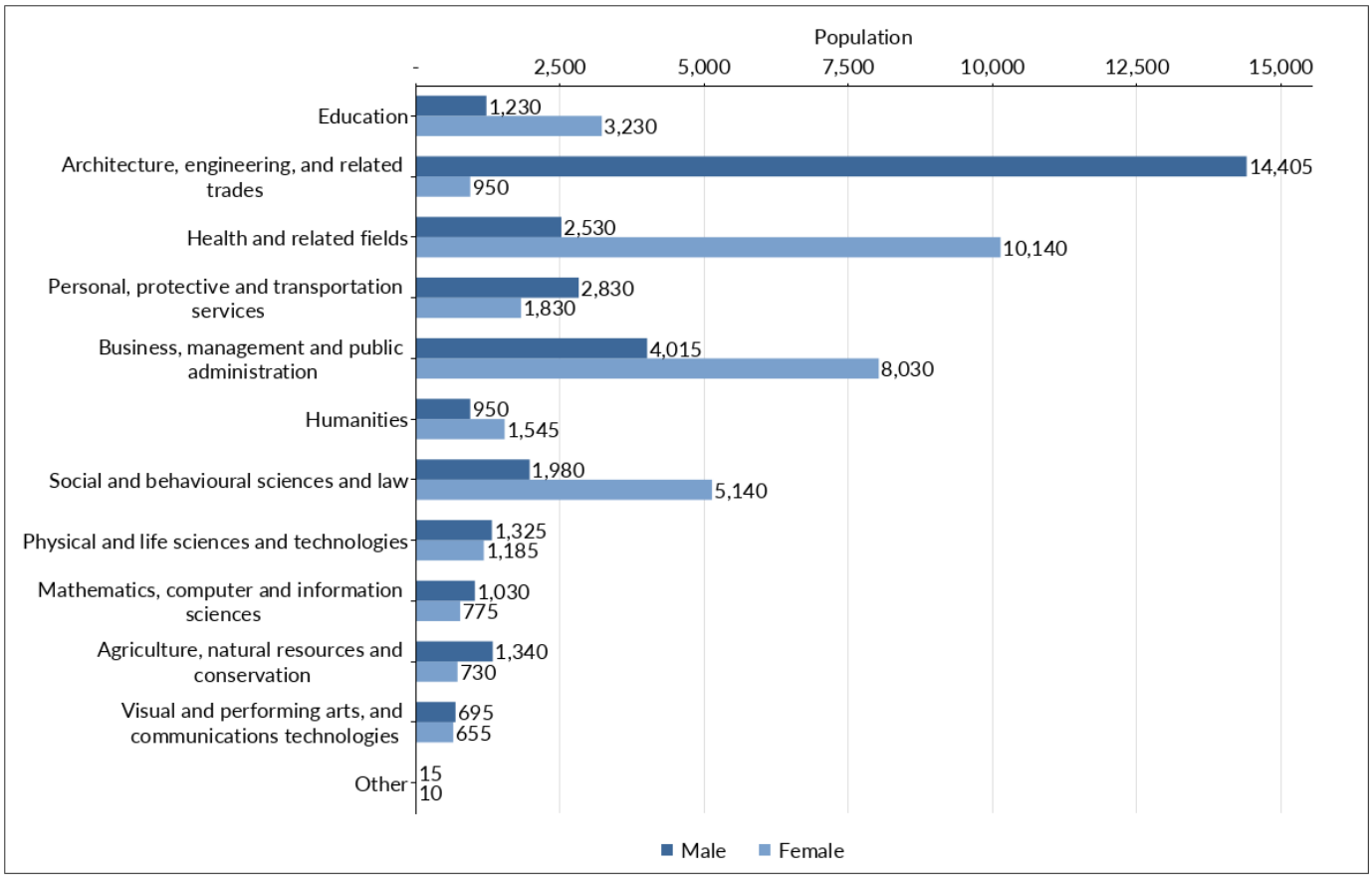
Highest Level of Education	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
No certificate, diploma or degree	22,050	18.0%	11,360	18.7%	10,685	17.2%
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	34,135	27.8%	17,035	28.0%	17,100	27.6%
Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	66,565	54.2%	32,340	53.2%	34,220	55.2%
Total	**122,750**	**100%**	**60,735**	**100%**	**62,005**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-41 and **Table 6-38** present the major fields of study for the population aged 15 and over who obtained a post-secondary education. Summarized as:

- The major fields of study most commonly studied were architecture, engineering, and related trades which includes but is not limited to construction trades, precision production, mechanic and repair technology, engineering, and historic preservation and conservation;
- The most commonly pursued fields of study for males were architecture, engineering, and related trades; and
- The most commonly pursued fields of study for females were health and related fields.

Figure 6-41: Thunder Bay District – Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-38: Thunder Bay District – Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)

Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Education	4,460	6.7%	1,230	3.8%	3,230	9.4%
Architecture, engineering, and related trades	15,350	23.1%	14,405	44.5%	950	2.8%
Health and related fields	12,665	19.0%	2,530	7.8%	10,140	29.6%
Personal, protective and transportation services	4,660	7.0%	2,830	8.7%	1,830	5.3%
Business, management and public administration	12,050	18.1%	4,015	12.4%	8,030	23.5%
Humanities	2,500	3.8%	950	2.9%	1,545	4.5%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	7,120	10.7%	1,980	6.1%	5,140	15.0%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	2,515	3.8%	1,325	4.1%	1,185	3.5%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	1,800	2.7%	1,030	3.2%	775	2.3%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	2,075	3.1%	1,340	4.1%	730	2.1%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	1,345	2.0%	695	2.1%	655	1.9%
Other	20	0.0%	15	0.0%	10	0.0%
Total	**66,560**	**100%**	**32,345**	**100%**	**34,220**	**100%**

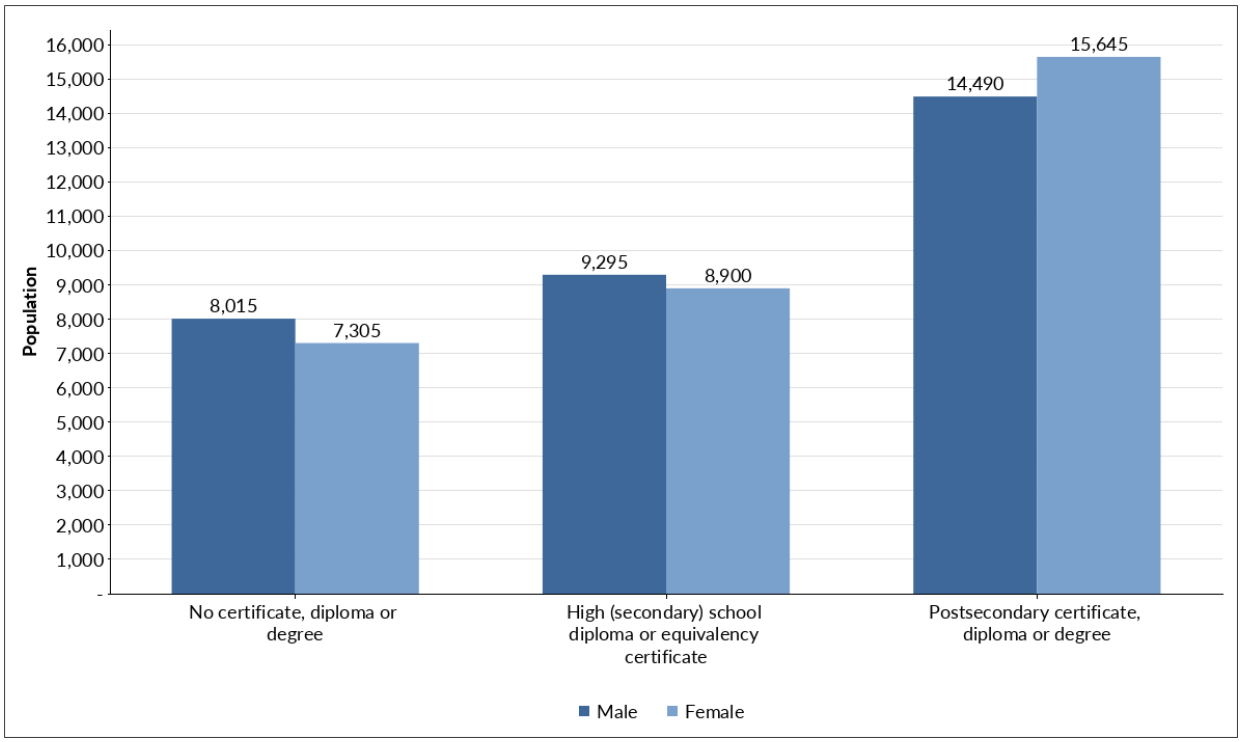
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.1.2.2.3 Cochrane District

Figure 6-42 and **Table 6-39** present the highest level of educational attainment for the population aged 15 years and over in private household in the Cochrane District for 2021. Summarized as:

- The majority of the population has a certificate, diploma, or degree at 47.3%; and
- 24.1% of the Cochrane District does not have a certificate, diploma, or degree, males make up 52.3% and females account for 47.7%.

Figure 6-42: Cochrane District – Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-39: Cochrane District – Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)

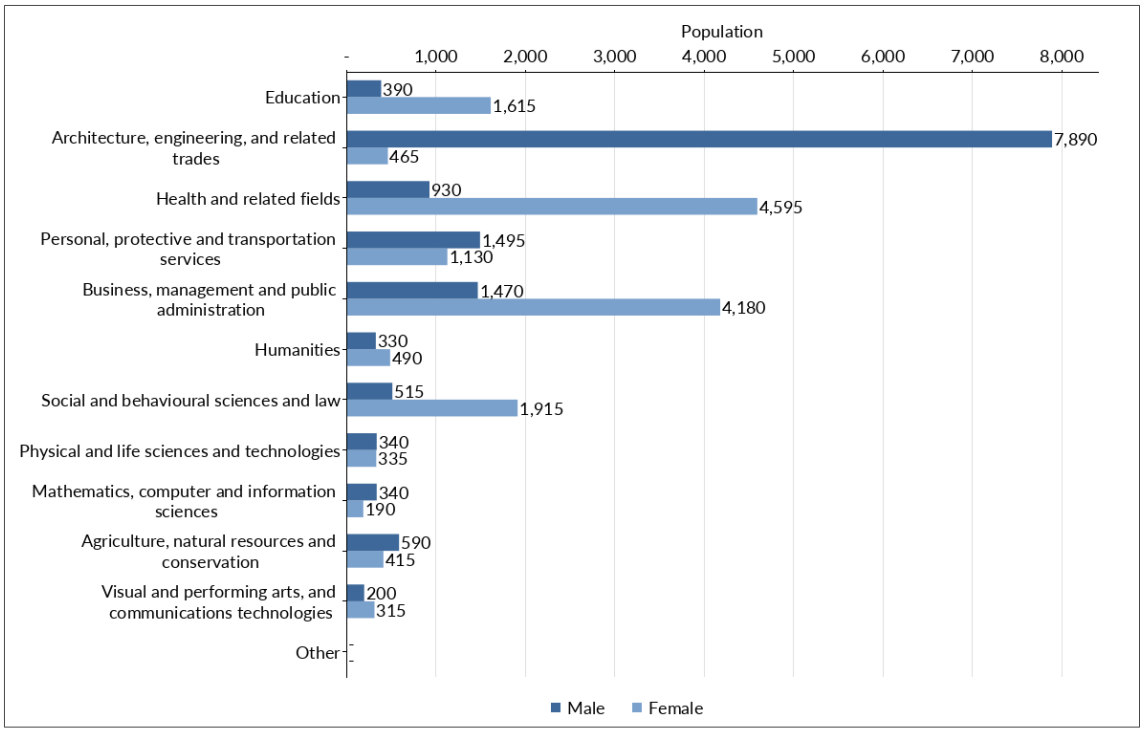
Highest Level of Education	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
No certificate, diploma or degree	15,325	24.1%	8,015	25.2%	7,305	22.9%
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	18,195	28.6%	9,295	29.2%	8,900	27.9%
Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree	30,130	47.3%	14,490	45.6%	15,645	49.1%
Total	**63,650**	**100%**	**31,800**	**100%**	**31,850**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-43 and **Table 6-40** present the major fields of study for the population aged 15 and over who obtained a post-secondary education. Summarized as:

- The fields most commonly studied were architecture, engineering, and related trades which includes but is not limited to construction trades, precision production, mechanic and repair technology, engineering, and historic preservation and conservation;
- The most commonly pursued fields of study for males were architecture, engineering, and related trades; and
- The most commonly pursued fields of study for females were health and related fields.

Figure 6-43: Cochrane District – Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-40: Cochrane District – Major Field of Study for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2021)

Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Education	2,010	6.7%	390	2.7%	1,615	10.3%
Architecture, engineering, and related trades	8,355	27.7%	7,890	54.5%	465	3.0%
Health and related fields	5,525	18.3%	930	6.4%	4,595	29.4%
Personal, protective and transportation services	2,620	8.7%	1,495	10.3%	1,130	7.2%
Business, management and public administration	5,645	18.7%	1,470	10.1%	4,180	26.7%
Humanities	825	2.7%	330	2.3%	490	3.1%

Major Field of Study	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Social and behavioural sciences and law	2,435	8.1%	515	3.6%	1,915	12.2%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	670	2.2%	340	2.3%	335	2.1%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	530	1.8%	340	2.3%	190	1.2%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1,005	3.3%	590	4.1%	415	2.7%
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	515	1.7%	200	1.4%	315	2.0%
Other	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Total	**30,135**	**100%**	**14,490**	**100%**	**15,645**	**100%**

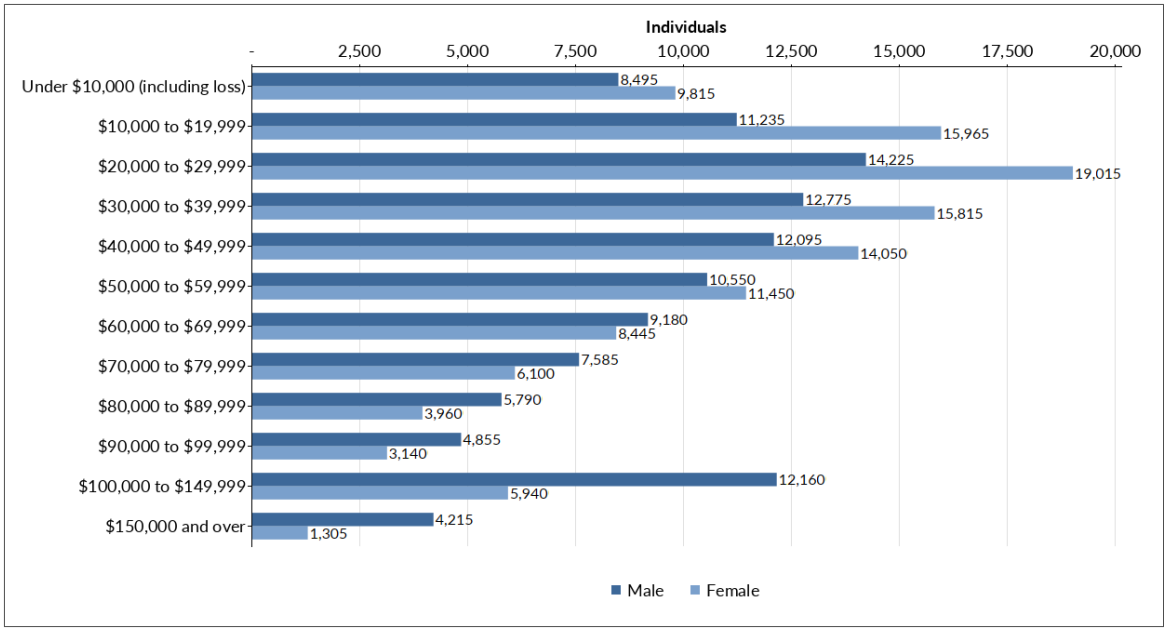
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.1.2.3 Labour Income

Figure 6-44 and **Table 6-41** present the total individual income by group for the population age 15 and over for 2020 in the RSA by self-identified gender. Summarized as:

- The largest individual income group for both male and female is $20,000 to $29,999;
- The smallest individual income group for both male and female is $150,000 and over with 3.7% and 1.1%, respectively; and
- In 2020, there were 1,840 more females than males with individual incomes.

Figure 6-44: Total Individual Income by Group for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Regional Study Area (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-41: Total Individual Income by Group for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households in Regional Study Area (2020)

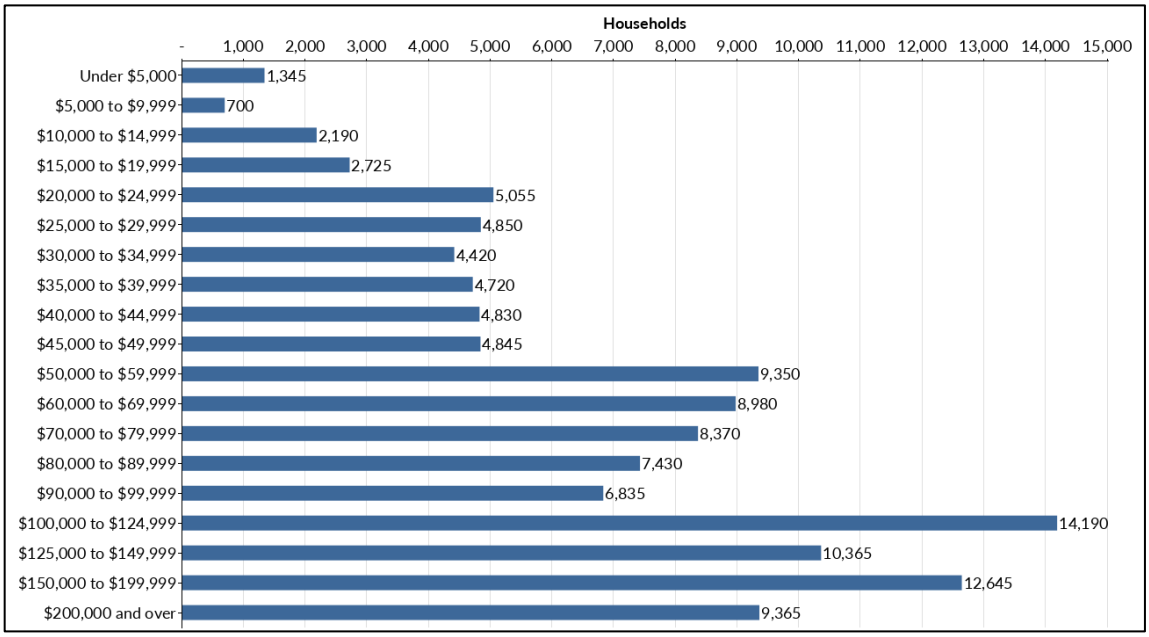
Income Group	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Under $10,000 (including loss)	18,305	8%	8,495	7.5%	9,815	8.5%
$10,000 to $19,999	27,200	12%	11,235	9.9%	15,965	13.9%
$20,000 to $29,999	33,245	15%	14,225	12.6%	19,015	16.5%
$30,000 to $39,999	28,580	13%	12,775	11.3%	15,815	13.8%
$40,000 to $49,999	26,150	11%	12,095	10.7%	14,050	12.2%
$50,000 to $59,999	22,005	10%	10,550	9.3%	11,450	10.0%
$60,000 to $69,999	17,625	8%	9,180	8.1%	8,445	7.3%
$70,000 to $79,999	13,680	6%	7,585	6.7%	6,100	5.3%
$80,000 to $89,999	9,755	4%	5,790	5.1%	3,960	3.4%
$90,000 to $99,999	7,995	4%	4,855	4.3%	3,140	2.7%
$100,000 to $149,999	18,100	8%	12,160	10.7%	5,940	5.2%
$150,000 and over	5,530	2%	4,215	3.7%	1,305	1.1%
Total	**228,170**	**100%**	**113,160**	**100%**	**115,000**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-45 and **Table 6-42** present the total household income for private households in 2020 in the RSA. Summarized as:

- The majority of households have an income level between $100,000 to $124,999 at 11.5%;
- The smallest household income group is $5,000 to $9,999 at 0.6%; and
- Approximately 50% of households bring in under $80,000 while the other half bring in over $80,000.

Figure 6-45: Household Total Income Groups for Private Households in Regional Study Area (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-42: Household Total Income Groups for Private Households in Regional Study Area (2020)

Income Group	Count	Distribution
Under $5,000	1,345	1.1%
$5,000 to $9,999	700	0.6%
$10,000 to $14,999	2,190	1.8%
$15,000 to $19,999	2,725	2.2%
$20,000 to $24,999	5,055	4.1%
$25,000 to $29,999	4,850	3.9%
$30,000 to $34,999	4,420	3.6%
$35,000 to $39,999	4,720	3.8%
$40,000 to $44,999	4,830	3.9%
$45,000 to $49,999	4,845	3.9%
$50,000 to $59,999	9,350	7.6%
$60,000 to $69,999	8,980	7.3%
$70,000 to $79,999	8,370	6.8%
$80,000 to $89,999	7,430	6.0%

Income Group	Count	Distribution
$90,000 to $99,999	6,835	5.5%
$100,000 to $124,999	14,190	11.5%
$125,000 to $149,999	10,365	8.4%
$150,000 to $199,999	12,645	10.3%
$200,000 and over	9,365	7.6%
Total	**123,210**	**100%**

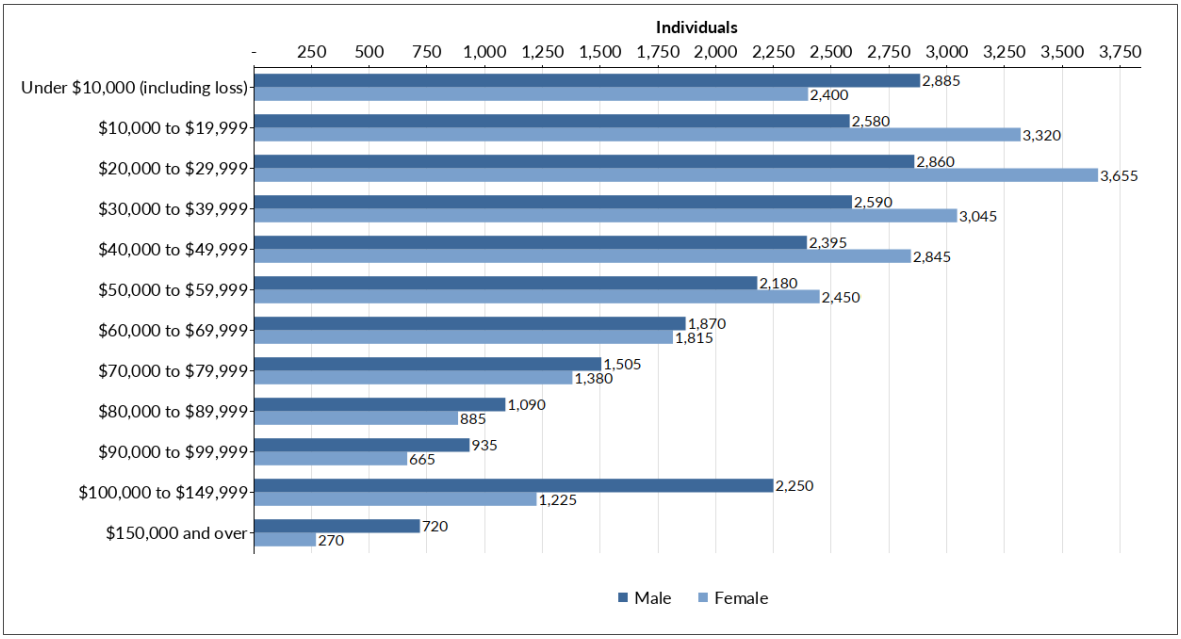
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.1.2.3.1 Kenora District

Figure 6-46 and **Table 6-43** present the total individual income by group for the population age 15 and over for 2020 in the Kenora District by self-identified gender, summarized as:

- The largest individual income group for both male and female is $20,000 to $29,999;
- The smallest individual income group for both male and female is $150,000 and over with 3% and 1.1%, respectively;
- In 2020, there were 95 more females than males with individual incomes; and
- In 2020, 74% of females were making under $60,000 while only 65% of males were within this group.

Figure 6-46: Kenora District – Total Individual Income by Group for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-43: Kenora District – Total Individual Income by Group for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2020)

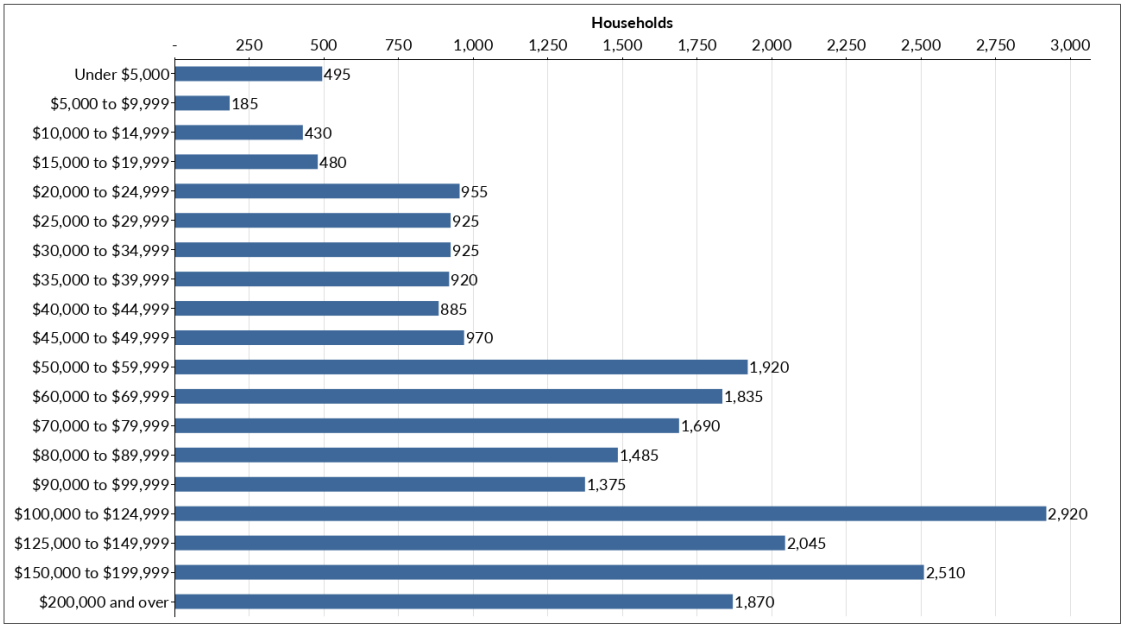
Income Group	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Under $10,000 (including loss)	5,285	11.0%	2,885	12.1%	2,400	10.0%
$10,000 to $19,999	5,900	12.3%	2,580	10.8%	3,320	13.9%
$20,000 to $29,999	6,515	13.6%	2,860	12.0%	3,655	15.3%
$30,000 to $39,999	5,630	11.8%	2,590	10.9%	3,045	12.7%
$40,000 to $49,999	5,245	11.0%	2,395	10.0%	2,845	11.9%
$50,000 to $59,999	4,635	9.7%	2,180	9.1%	2,450	10.2%
$60,000 to $69,999	3,690	7.7%	1,870	7.8%	1,815	7.6%
$70,000 to $79,999	2,890	6.0%	1,505	6.3%	1,380	5.8%
$80,000 to $89,999	1,980	4.1%	1,090	4.6%	885	3.7%
$90,000 to $99,999	1,605	3.4%	935	3.9%	665	2.8%
$100,000 to $149,999	3,475	7.3%	2,250	9.4%	1,225	5.1%
$150,000 and over	990	2.1%	720	3.0%	270	1.1%
Total	**47,840**	**100%**	**23,860**	**100%**	**23,955**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-47 and **Table 6-44** present the total household income for private households in 2020 in the Kenora District and summarized as follows:

- The majority of households have an income level between $100,000 to $124,999 at 11.8%;
- The smallest household income group is $5,000 to $9,999 at 0.7%; and
- Approximately 50% of households bring in under $80,000 while the other half bring in over $80,000.

Figure 6-47: Kenora District – Household Total Income Groups for Private Households (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-44: Kenora District – Household Total Income Groups for Private Households (2020)

Income Group	Count	Distribution
Under $5,000	495	2.0%
$5,000 to $9,999	185	0.7%
$10,000 to $14,999	430	1.7%
$15,000 to $19,999	480	1.9%
$20,000 to $24,999	955	3.8%
$25,000 to $29,999	925	3.7%
$30,000 to $34,999	925	3.7%
$35,000 to $39,999	920	3.7%
$40,000 to $44,999	885	3.6%
$45,000 to $49,999	970	3.9%
$50,000 to $59,999	1,920	7.7%
$60,000 to $69,999	1,835	7.4%
$70,000 to $79,999	1,690	6.8%
$80,000 to $89,999	1,485	6.0%
$90,000 to $99,999	1,375	5.5%
$100,000 to $124,999	2,920	11.8%
$125,000 to $149,999	2,045	8.2%
$150,000 to $199,999	2,510	10.1%
$200,000 and over	1,870	7.5%
Total	**24,820**	**100%**

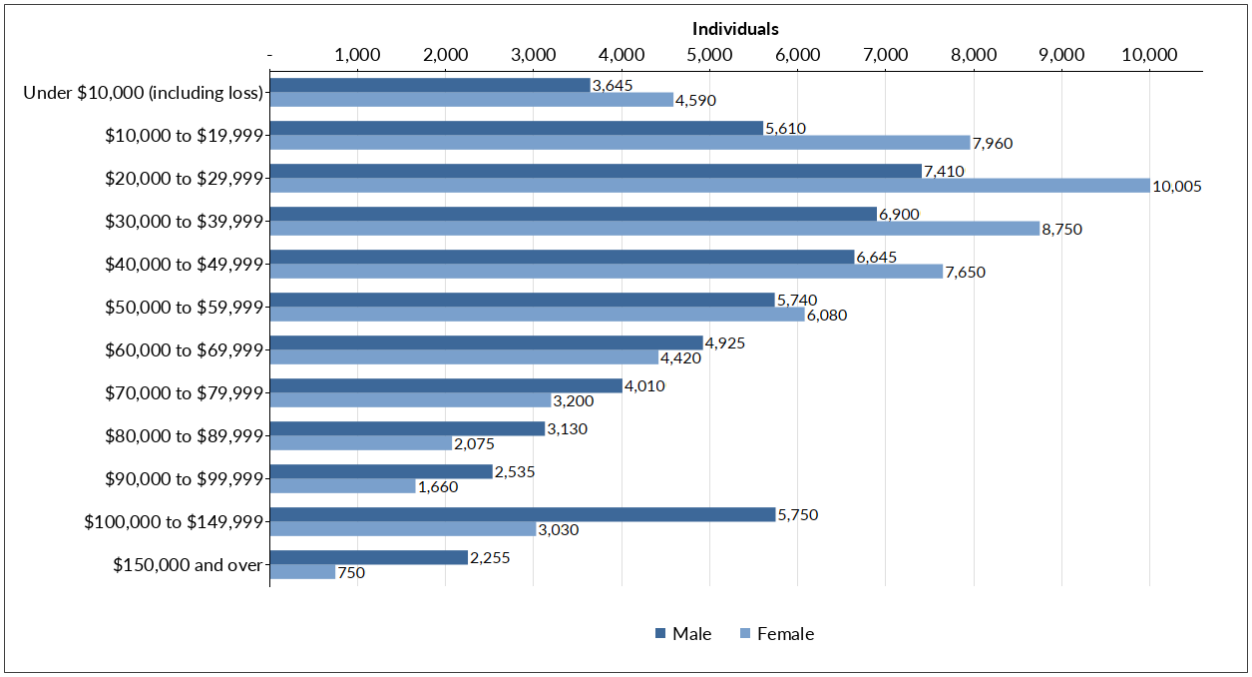
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.1.2.3.2 Thunder Bay District

Figure 6-48 and **Table 6-45** present the total individual income by group for the population age 15 and over for 2020 in the Thunder Bay District by self-identified gender and summarized as:

- The largest individual income group for both male and female is $20,000 to $29,999 with 12.7% and 16.6%, respectively;
- The smallest individual income group for both male and female is $150,000 and over with 3.9% and 1.2%, respectively;
- In 2020, there were 1,615 more females than males with individual incomes; and
- In 2020, 74.8% of females were making under $60,000 while only 61.4% of males were within this group.

Figure 6-48: Total Individual Income by Group in the Thunder Bay District for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-45: Total Individual Income by Group in the Thunder Bay District for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2020)

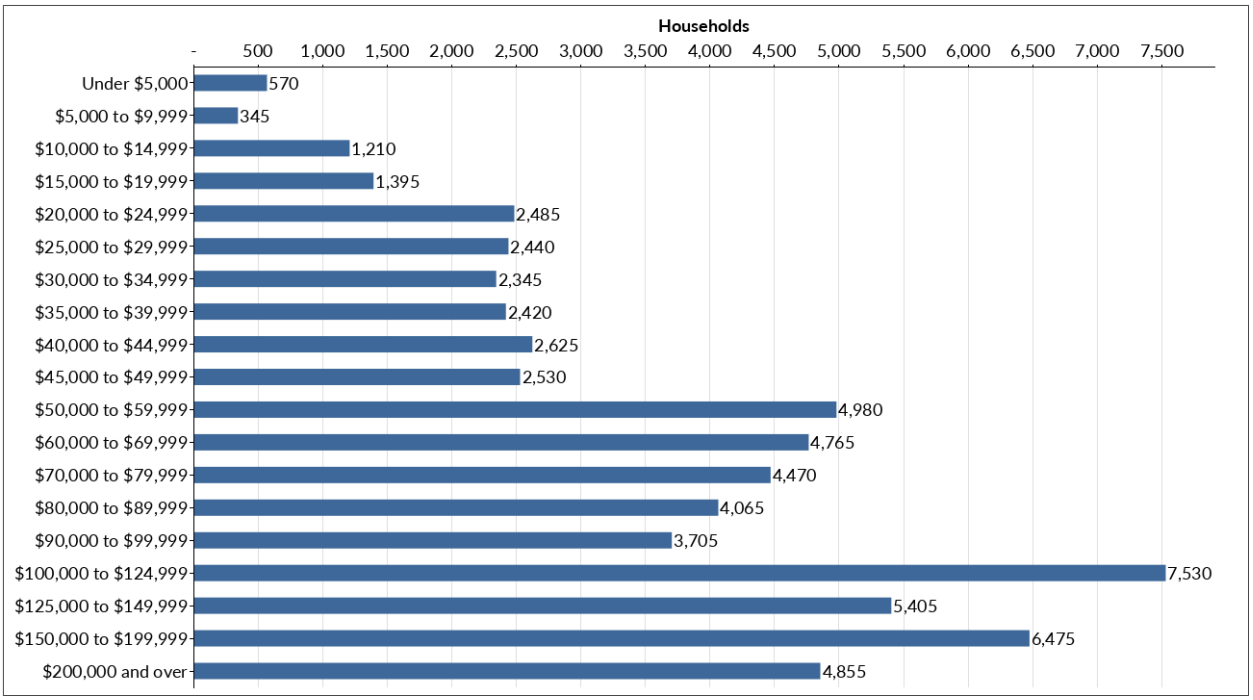
Income Group	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Under $10,000 (including loss)	8,235	6.9%	3,645	6.2%	4,590	7.6%
$10,000 to $19,999	13,570	11.4%	5,610	9.6%	7,960	13.2%
$20,000 to $29,999	17,420	14.7%	7,410	12.7%	10,005	16.6%
$30,000 to $39,999	15,650	13.2%	6,900	11.8%	8,750	14.5%
$40,000 to $49,999	14,295	12.0%	6,645	11.3%	7,650	12.7%
$50,000 to $59,999	11,820	10.0%	5,740	9.8%	6,080	10.1%
$60,000 to $69,999	9,345	7.9%	4,925	8.4%	4,420	7.3%
$70,000 to $79,999	7,205	6.1%	4,010	6.8%	3,200	5.3%
$80,000 to $89,999	5,205	4.4%	3,130	5.3%	2,075	3.4%
$90,000 to $99,999	4,190	3.5%	2,535	4.3%	1,660	2.8%
$100,000 to $149,999	8,780	7.4%	5,750	9.8%	3,030	5.0%
$150,000 and over	3,010	2.5%	2,255	3.9%	750	1.2%
Total	**118,725**	**100%**	**58,555**	**100%**	**60,170**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-49 and **Table 6-46** present the total household income for private households in 2020 in the Kenora District and is summarized as:

- The majority of households have an income level between $100,000 to $124,999 at 11.7%;
- The smallest household income group is $5,000 to $9,999 at 0.5%; and
- Approximately 50% of households bring in under $80,000 while the other half bring in over $80,000.

Figure 6-49: Thunder Bay District – Household Total Income Groups for Private Households (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-46: Thunder Bay District – Household Total Income Groups for Private Households (2020)

Income Group	Count	Distribution
Under $5,000	570	0.9%
$5,000 to $9,999	345	0.5%
$10,000 to $14,999	1,210	1.9%
$15,000 to $19,999	1,395	2.2%
$20,000 to $24,999	2,485	3.8%
$25,000 to $29,999	2,440	3.8%
$30,000 to $34,999	2,345	3.6%
$35,000 to $39,999	2,420	3.7%
$40,000 to $44,999	2,625	4.1%
$45,000 to $49,999	2,530	3.9%
$50,000 to $59,999	4,980	7.7%
$60,000 to $69,999	4,765	7.4%
$70,000 to $79,999	4,470	6.9%

Income Group	Count	Distribution
$80,000 to $89,999	4,065	6.3%
$90,000 to $99,999	3,705	5.7%
$100,000 to $124,999	7,530	11.7%
$125,000 to $149,999	5,405	8.4%
$150,000 to $199,999	6,475	10.0%
$200,000 and over	4,855	7.5%
Total	**64,615**	**100%**

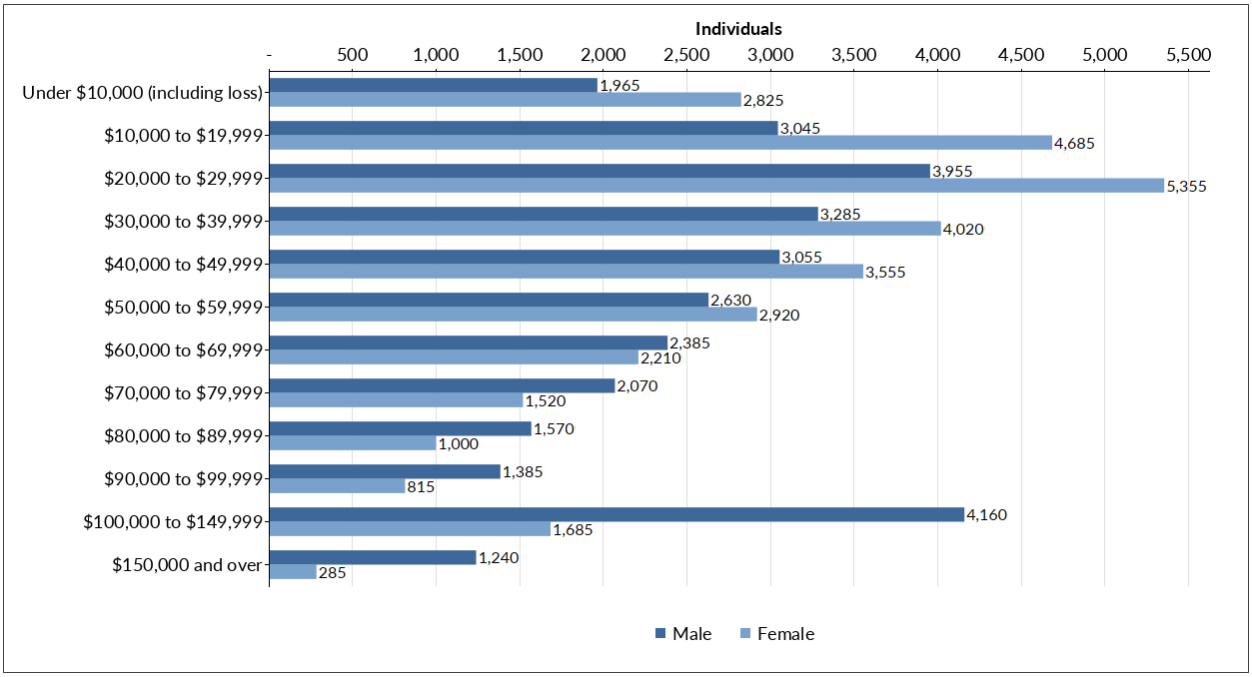
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.1.2.3.3 Cochrane District

Figure 6-50 and **Table 6-47** present the total individual income by group for the population age 15 and over for 2020 in the Cochrane District by self-identified gender and is summarized as:

- The largest individual income group for both male and female is $20,000 to $29,999 with 12.9% and 17.3%, respectively;
- The smallest individual income group for both male and female is $150,000 and over with 4% and 0.9%, respectively;
- In 2020, there were 130 more females than males with individual incomes; and
- In 2020, 75.7% of females were making under $60,000 while only 58.3% of males were within this group.

Figure 6-50: Total Individual income by Group in the Cochrane District for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-47: Total Individual income by Group in the Cochrane District for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households (2020)

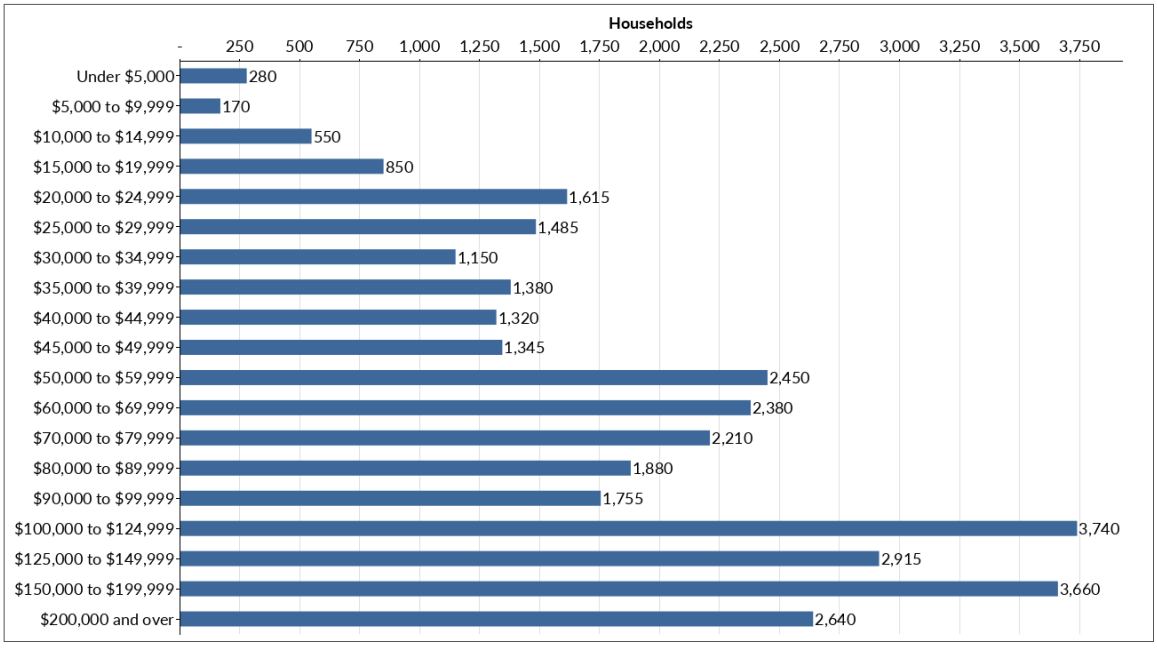
Income Group	Total		Male		Female	
	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Under $10,000 (including loss)	4,785	7.8%	1,965	6.4%	2,825	9.1%
$10,000 to $19,999	7,730	12.5%	3,045	9.9%	4,685	15.2%
$20,000 to $29,999	9,310	15.1%	3,955	12.9%	5,355	17.3%
$30,000 to $39,999	7,300	11.8%	3,285	10.7%	4,020	13.0%
$40,000 to $49,999	6,610	10.7%	3,055	9.9%	3,555	11.5%
$50,000 to $59,999	5,550	9.0%	2,630	8.6%	2,920	9.5%
$60,000 to $69,999	4,590	7.5%	2,385	7.8%	2,210	7.2%
$70,000 to $79,999	3,585	5.8%	2,070	6.7%	1,520	4.9%
$80,000 to $89,999	2,570	4.2%	1,570	5.1%	1,000	3.2%
$90,000 to $99,999	2,200	3.6%	1,385	4.5%	815	2.6%
$100,000 to $149,999	5,845	9.5%	4,160	13.5%	1,685	5.5%
$150,000 and over	1,530	2.5%	1,240	4.0%	285	0.9%
Total	**61,605**	**100%**	**30,745**	**100%**	**30,875**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Figure 6-51 and **Table 6-48** present the total household income for private households in 2020 in the Cochrane District, summarized below:

- The majority of households have an income level between $100,000 to $124,999 at 11.1%;
- The smallest household income group is $5,000 to $9,999 at 0.5%; and
- Approximately 50% of households bring in under $80,000 while the other half bring in over $80,000.

Figure 6-51: Cochrane District – Household Total Income Groups for Private Households (2020)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-48: Cochrane District – Household Total Income Groups for Private Households (2020)

Income Group	Count	Distribution
Under $5,000	280	0.8%
$5,000 to $9,999	170	0.5%
$10,000 to $14,999	550	1.6%
$15,000 to $19,999	850	2.5%
$20,000 to $24,999	1,615	4.8%
$25,000 to $29,999	1,485	4.4%
$30,000 to $34,999	1,150	3.4%
$35,000 to $39,999	1,380	4.1%
$40,000 to $44,999	1,320	3.9%
$45,000 to $49,999	1,345	4.0%
$50,000 to $59,999	2,450	7.3%
$60,000 to $69,999	2,380	7.0%
$70,000 to $79,999	2,210	6.5%
$80,000 to $89,999	1,880	5.6%
$90,000 to $99,999	1,755	5.2%
$100,000 to $124,999	3,740	11.1%
$125,000 to $149,999	2,915	8.6%
$150,000 to $199,999	3,660	10.8%
$200,000 and over	2,640	7.8%
Total	**33,775**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.2 Overall Economy

Fly-in communities generally experience lower economic productivity and higher cost of living due in part due to there not being an all-season road connection to the provincial highway system and ease of interacting with wider markets. There are projects and initiatives in the community that support economic development, although historically one factor that has challenged economic development is the road connectivity limitations. All-season road connection, such as with Webequie Supply Road, is therefore thought to potentially lead to better economic productivity and jobs overall, and lower food and gas prices and better accessibility (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

Existing conditions of the overall economy in the LSA and RSA are described in this section using the following indicators:

- Cost of living;
- Economic development, including economic development initiatives, capacity, gaps, major projects, new projects, closures, equipment availability, energy profile, access to capital and trends; and
- Traditional economy.

Data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the LSA is unavailable from Statistics Canada.

6.2.1 Local Study Area

Due to the relative remoteness of the LSA communities and supply chain challenges (i.e., transporting goods into the community), the cost of living can be substantially higher in comparison to urban areas. In general, the LSA communities are far from urban centres, which creates transportation challenges for both goods and services coming into the community as well as residents leaving the community for goods and services.

Practicing traditional culture is an important element of life in Indigenous communities, with members being very connected to the lands on which they live. This means there are specific practices and plans for where economic activity can occur and how lands are used.

The traditional economy is another important cultural aspect within the LSA communities. Unfortunately, traditional economy activities are not widely reported on and therefore it is difficult to quantify the economic impact they have within the LSA communities.

A significant portion of the economic development activities occurring within the LSA are focused on business development, access to services, advisory services, and employment counseling.

6.2.1.1 Cost of Living

This section presents the cost of living for First Nation reserves within the LSA, including income per household and the percentage of income that is spent on renting/ mortgaging, energy, and groceries per month.

- In Webequie First Nation, the majority of individuals:
  - are unaware of how much their income is spent on renting/mortgaging;
  - spend approximately the same amount on energy in the summer as the winter, with most individuals spending approximately $100 to $200 per month; and
  - spend approximately $751 to $1,000 per month on groceries.
- Among the LSA communities, there is approximately an equal distribution of individuals from 0 to 17 years of age and individuals from 18 to 64 years of age living in low-income; seniors (individuals who are 65 years old or older) make up a small proportion of low-income population.
- The percentage of individuals living in low-income for 2021 ranges from 30% (Kasabonika Lake First Nation) to 47% (Eabametoong First Nation). During the same year, approximately 10% of Ontarians lived in low-income.

Many Indigenous communities experience a heightened cost of living due to the remoteness of their community. Everyday items can cost more than double what they would in urban areas. This causes a higher percentage of individuals to live in food insecurity and poverty.

6.2.1.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Table 6-49 presents the number of people considered to be low income living in Webequie First Nation in 2021. Individuals are considered low income based on the low-income measures (LIM). The LIM is a relative measure of low income and considers individuals to be low-income if their income is less than 50% of the median income level, summarized as:

- The largest age group living in low income according to the low-income measure are people aged 0 to 17 years;
- Approximately 40% of people aged 0 to 17 years are considered low-income;
- Approximately 25% of people aged 18 to 64 years are considered low-income;
- Approximately 40% of people aged 65 years and over are considered low-income; and

- Approximately 31.2% of the Webequie population is considered low-income.

Table 6-49: Population in Low Income Based on the LIM After Tax for Webequie First Nation (2021)

Age Group	Count	Distribution
0 to 17 years	105	46.7%
18 to 64 years	100	44.4%
65 years and over	20	8.9%
Total	**225**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

As a result of Webequie being a fly-in community, the cost of living is high. Key stakeholder interviews were conducted during 2022 and 2023. In key stakeholder interviews, it was reported that during the majority of the year since Webequie is a "fly-in community, the only way to get products, services, and people in is through flights. That has caused increased cost of living in Webequie".

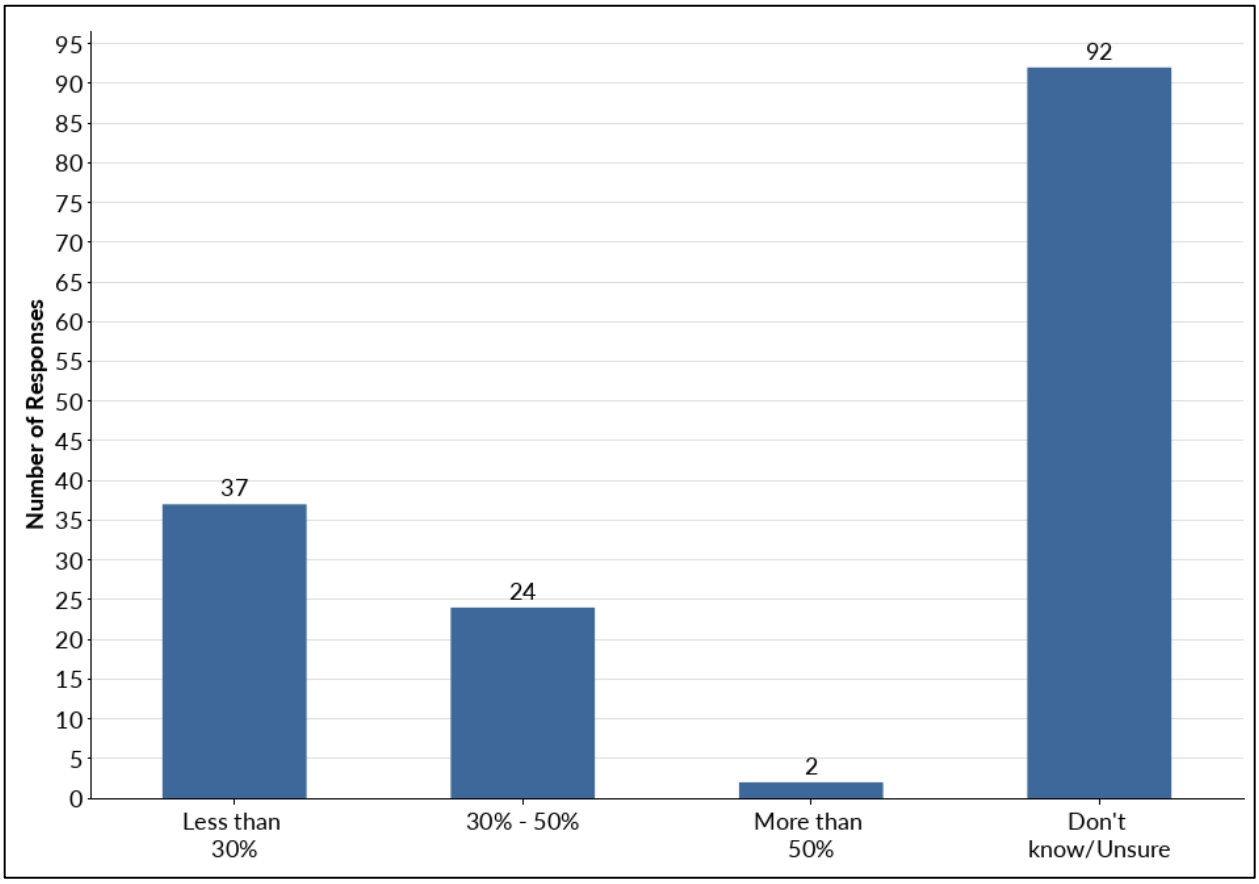
One interview respondent from the community described the cost of living in the community, as follows:

> *The cost of living is one of the major concerns because of where we are situated. Cost of living, we always bring it on the table with the government. Even to go out on the land, you have to spend money. And some of these people that go out depend on others. Like, I support my son and daughter if they want to go out into the Bush. It costs money. It cost several hundred dollars to a thousand dollars to send out kids for experience during the cultural break that they have now. That's why we have programs like Choose Life for kids to go out and gain experience. And some people don't have the opportunity to send their kids. Even if a person wants to go out and fish on a boat people need money. We are on an island. If you want to go out fishing every once in a while or go swimming with the kids they need to buy more things.* (Webequie First Nation Key Informant Interview, 2022).

There are currently federal supported programs such as the 'Harvesters Support Program' which are made available through local services such as KKETS, which focuses on increasing communities' access to food security initiatives, enhancing local community food systems, restoring cultural traditions and increasing access to traditional foods and knowledge (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). The program provides community feasts and hunts, community food sharing events, investments for freezers, land-based teachings, assistance for purchase of equipment and supplies (including clothing, footwear, and shelter), assistance for obtaining licenses and trainings, community hampers, school nutrition programs and direct food access for community members. KKETS received $4.5 million in investments in 2023 in support for expansion of this program in Matawa region (Matawa First Nations, 2023).

In surveys conducted by in 2022, data were gathered on a variety of subjects including cost of living (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). **Figure 6-52** to **Figure 6-55** and **Table 6-50** to **Table 6-53** present survey data on the cost of living (i.e., rent/mortgage, energy, and groceries) for residents of Webequie First Nation in 2022.

Figure 6-52: Household Income is Spent on Rent or Mortgage Payments per Month



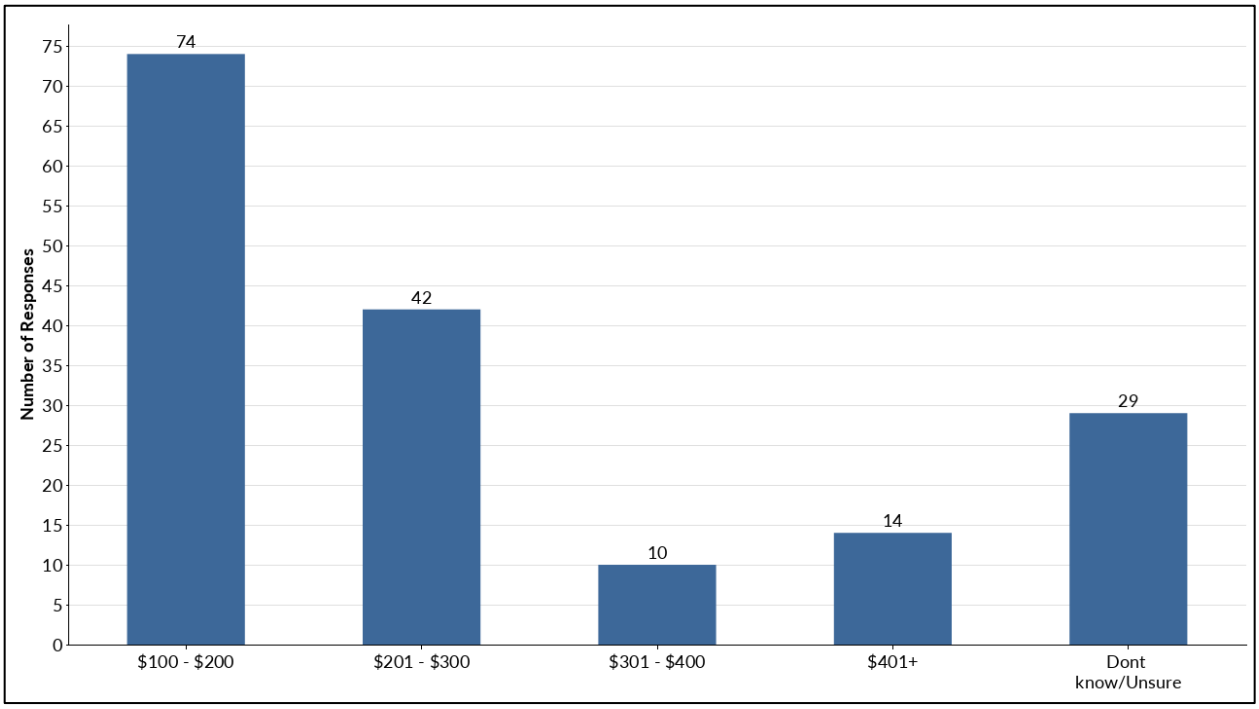
Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Table 6-50: Household Income is Spent on Rent or Mortgage Payments per Month

Income Spent	Count	Distribution
Less than 30%	37	23.9%
30% to 50%	24	15.5%
More than 50%	2	1.3%
Don’t know/Unsure	92	59.4%
Total	**155**	**100%**

Source : SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Figure 6-53: Energy Costs per Month During Winter



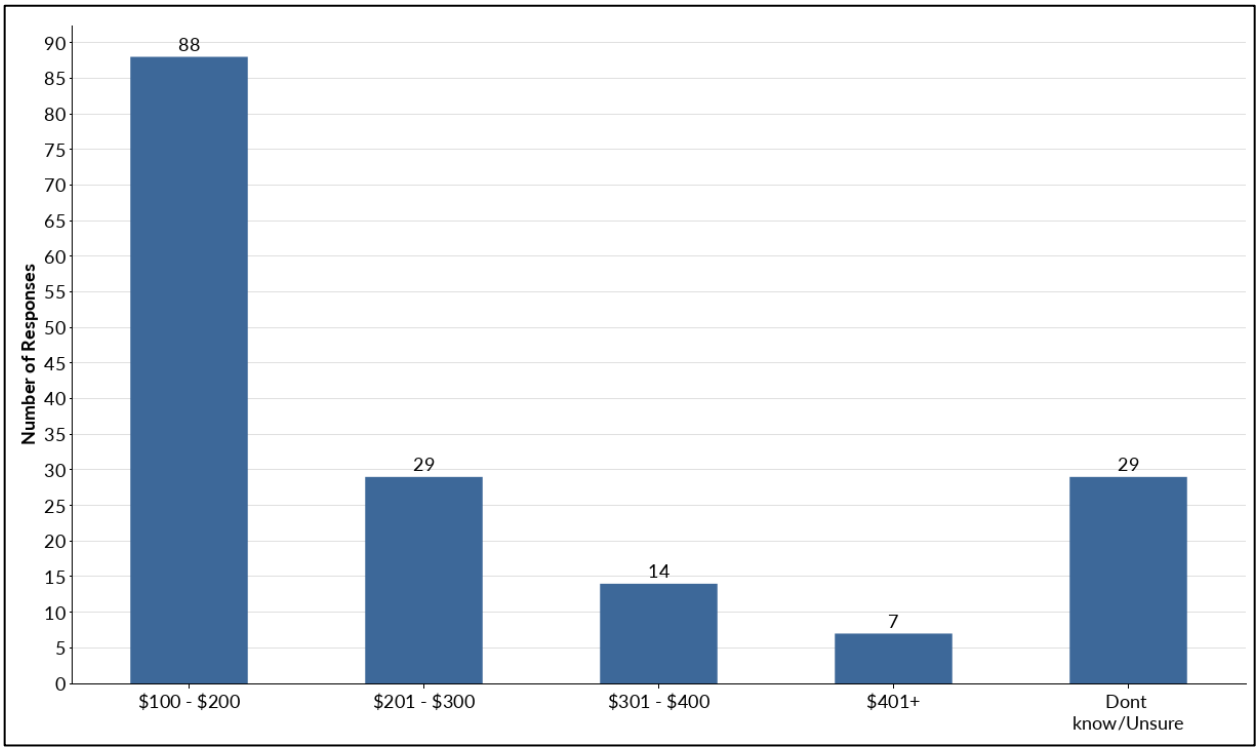
Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Table 6-51: Energy Costs per Month During Winter

Energy Expense	Count	Distribution
$100 – $200	74	43.8%
$201 – $300	42	24.9%
$301 – $400	10	5.9%
$401 +	14	8.3%
Don’t know/Unsure	29	17.2%
Total	**169**	**100%**

Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Figure 6-54: Energy Costs per Month During Summer



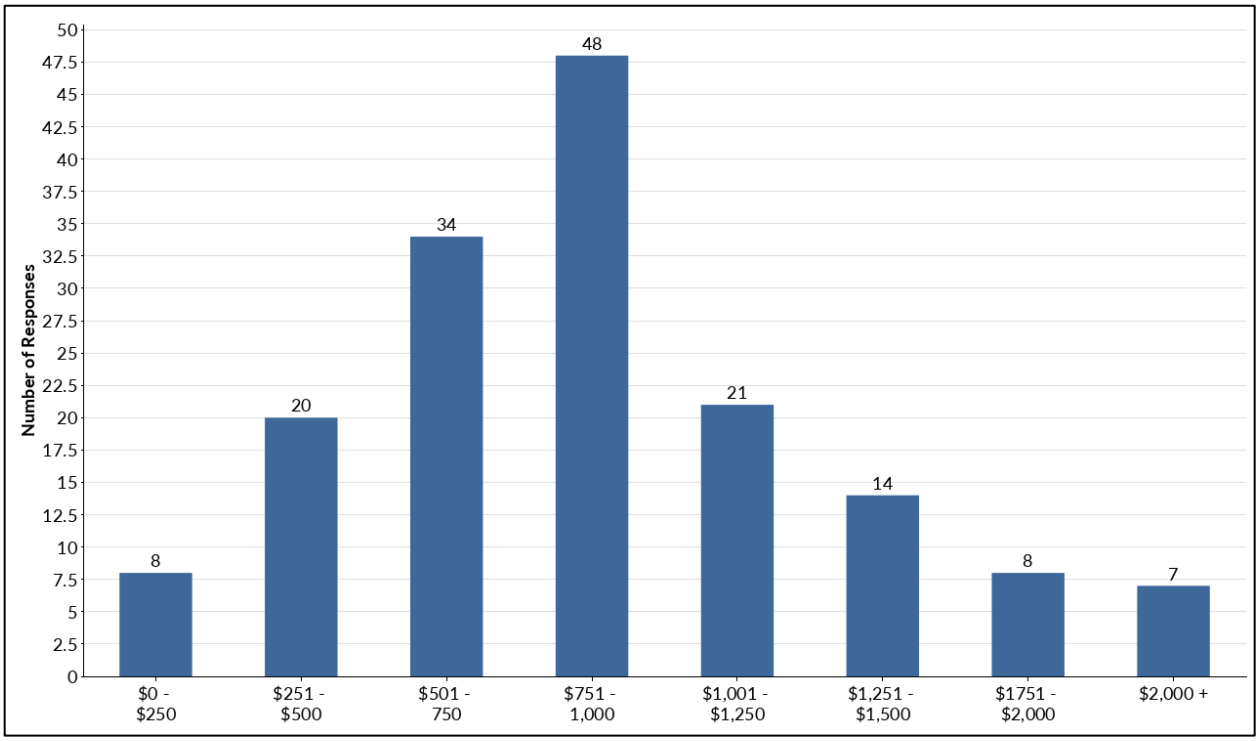
Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Table 6-52: Energy Costs per Month During Summer

Energy Expense	Count	Distribution
$100 – $200	88	52.7%
$201 – $300	29	17.4%
$301 – $400	14	8.4%
$401 +	7	4.2%
Don’t know/Unsure	29	17.4%
Total	**167**	**100%**

Source : SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Figure 6-55: Cost of Groceries per Month



Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Table 6-53: Cost of Groceries per Month

Grocery Expense	Count	Distribution
$0 – $250	8	5.0%
$251 – $500	20	12.5%
$501 – 750	34	21.3%
$751 – 1,000	48	30.0%
$1,001 – $1,250	21	13.1%
$1,251 – $1,500	14	8.8%
$1,751 – $2,000	8	5.0%
$2,000 +	7	4.4%
Total	**160**	**100%**

Source : SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

6.2.1.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Table 6-54 presents the population in low income for other Indigenous communities in the LSA in 2021 based on the LIM after tax. The LIM is a relative measure of low income, set at 50% of adjusted median household income. Population in low income for other Indigenous communities in the LSA in 2021 is summarized as follows:

- The largest age group living in low income according to the LIM across the LSA Indigenous communities are people aged 18 to 64 years followed very closely by people aged 0 to 17 years;
- Nibinamik First Nation has the highest distribution of people aged 0 to 17 years in low income;

- Approximately 47% of people aged 0 to 17 years are considered low-income;
- Approximately 37% of people aged 18 to 64 years are considered low-income;
- Approximately 35% of people aged 65 years and over are considered low-income; and
- The percentage of individuals living in low-income ranges from 30% (Kasabonika Lake First Nation) to 47% (Eabametoong First Nation) within the other LSA communities.

Table 6-54: Population in Low Income Based on the LIM After Tax for Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2021)

Community	Age Group	Total		Male		Female	
		Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution	Count	Distribution
Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver Settlement)	0 to 17 years	60	52.2%	30	50.0%	30	50.0%
	18 to 64 years	50	43.5%	25	41.7%	25	41.7%
	65 years and over	5	4.3%	5	8.3%	5	8.3%
	Total	**115**	**100%**	**60**	**100%**	**60**	**100%**
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	0 to 17 years	145	45.3%	60	37.5%	85	54.8%
	18 to 64 years	160	50.0%	95	59.4%	60	38.7%
	65 years and over	15	4.7%	5	3.1%	10	6.5%
	Total	**320**	**100%**	**160**	**100%**	**155**	**100%**
Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope 64)	0 to 17 years	235	50.5%	135	55.1%	100	46.5%
	18 to 64 years	215	46.2%	105	42.9%	105	48.8%
	65 years and over	15	3.2%	5	2.0%	10	4.7%
	Total	**465**	**100%**	**245**	**100%**	**215**	**100%**
Attawapiskat First Nation	0 to 17 years	340	46.3%	185	49.3%	155	43.7%
	18 to 64 years	360	49.0%	175	46.7%	180	50.7%
	65 years and over	35	4.8%	15	4.0%	20	5.6%
	Total	**735**	**100%**	**375**	**100%**	**355**	**100%**
Total	0 to 17 years	780	47.7%	410	48.8%	370	47.1%
	18 to 64 years	785	48.0%	400	47.6%	370	47.1%
	65 years and over	70	4.3%	30	3.6%	45	5.7%
	Total	**1,635**	**100%**	**840**	**100%**	**785**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Notes:

- All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Nibinamik First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, and Attawapiskat First Nation.
- Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation did not have data on this matter.

Due to the remoteness of many Indigenous communities, the price of essentials is inflated above prices in other parts of the country. According to a 2016 report, the average family in Attawapiskat First Nation spent $1,909 on food a month compared to $847 in Toronto (Global Citizen, 2022).

The 2020-2021 Nishnawbe Aski Nation[34] 2020-2021 Annual Report states that many families living in remote, semi-remote and isolated First Nations face acute hardship due to the extremely high cost of living, including: food, housing, fuel, and basic expenses (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, 2022). Nishnawbe Aski Nation community members often need to travel to larger urban centres to access medical, mental health and specialist services and may end up staying in urban centres longer than planned (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, 2022).

There are currently federal supported programs such as the 'Harvesters Support Program' introduced in 2022 which are made available through local services such as KKETS, which focuses on increasing communities' access to food security initiatives, enhancing local community food systems, restoring cultural traditions and increasing access to traditional foods and knowledge (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). The program provides services and facilities such as community feasts and hunts, community food sharing events, investments for freezers, land-based teachings, assistance for purchase of equipment and supplies (including clothing, footwear, and shelter), assistance for obtaining licenses and trainings, community hampers, school nutrition programs and direct food access for community members. KKETS received $4.5 million in investments in 2023 in support for expansion of this program in Matawa region (Matawa First Nations, 2023). The LSA communities are eligible for this program via relevant recipient organizations: Attawapiskat First Nation (through Mushkegowuk Council), Eabametoong First Nation (through KKETS), Kasabonika Lake First Nation (through Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board), Marten Falls First Nation (through KKETS), Neskantaga First Nation (through KKETS), and Nibinamik First Nation (through KKETS) (Nutrition North Canada, 2023).

6.2.1.1.3 GBA+ Considerations

Due to the remoteness of Webequie and neighbouring LSA communities, and associated difficulties in transporting goods to the community, the cost of living is substantially higher than in southern, urban centres. The remoteness of the fly-in community creates both challenges in bringing goods up to Webequie and challenges for residents to travel south for goods and services. High cost of living can disproportionately affect more vulnerable community members, including those who are low income, youth, Elders, women, and individuals living with disabilities. This section briefly describes the cost of living in Webequie First Nation, including household income and the percentage of income spent on rent/mortgage, energy, and groceries per month, highlighting the effects of high cost of living on vulnerable populations in the community.

The Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b) indicates approximately a quarter of Webequie respondents spent less than 30% of their household income on rent or a mortgage, 15.5% spent between 30% and 50% of their income, 1.3% said they spent more than 50% of their income, while nearly 60% of respondents said they were unsure/did not know. This may be due to approximately 94% of Webequie private dwellings being government or band housing (Statistics Canada, 2022).

Energy costs are a concern in Webequie, with the majority of survey respondents sharing that they spend the same amount ($100 to $200 per month) on energy costs in the summer as they do in the winter (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b). Costs of utilities in the community have presented substantial financial challenges for some households. The Webequie First Nation Well-Being Survey (Webequie, First Nation, 2014) indicates 83% of household members said they found it difficult to pay their electricity bills some or all of the time, and 90% said it was difficult to make fuel payments some or all of the time. Knowledge holders explained that most Webequie residents use wood to heat their homes. Wood can be expensive, with one informant sharing that people must go across the river to get wood at a cost of $180 per sled load (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Heating costs can be a particular barrier for young people in the community, some of whom are on social assistance, with one participant explaining the difficulty of having to use the small amount of money people receive to purchase all their essentials when goods in the community are so expensive (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

[34] Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political territorial organization representing 49 Indigenous communities within northern Ontario.

Knowledge holders echoed that the payments people receive, such as those provided by Ontario Works[35], are not enough to pay for the things they need, particularly with the high cost of food in the community (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). With the largest group living in low income in Webequie being between the ages of 0 to 17 (Statistics Canada, 2022), high cost of living can have disproportionate affects on young people.

Approximately 31.2% of the Webequie population is considered low-income (Statistics Canada, 2022). Over half (52.8%) of Webequie households earn under $70,000 (Statistics Canada, 2022). The community's cost of living is a major concern for community members, with one participant sharing that some families cannot afford Starlink (internet service), stating the inequality that low-income households in the community face. Others shared that high costs also impact their ability to carry out traditional activities like going out on the land (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Knowledge holders shared that the lack of infrastructure and lack of access to the land means people need the right equipment to travel for activities on the land, such as a boat, snow machine, and survival gear, which is a substantial cost to bear in addition to their other expenses (e.g., utilities, food) (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Both knowledge holders and focus group participants shared that the high costs associated with getting out on the land have disproportionate affects on Webequie youth, who must often rely on others, such as parents and family members, to have the means to go fishing or hunting. Youth can end up feeling stuck and unable to move around as a result (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Connection to the land is a critical determinant of health for Indigenous youth (Lines et al., 2019). Thus, the barrier of high costs in the community has effects on the health and well-being of Indigenous youth who may be inhibited from learning and practicing their culture on the land.

The high cost of living in Webequie also means many members are food insecure. In particular, fresh and healthy foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables can be extremely expensive in the community (Webequie First Nation, 2014). People are food secure when they have physical, social, and economic access to safe, sufficient, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods to live an active, healthy life at all times (OECD, n.d.). Food security can be assessed by four categories, including access (physical, financial, and social), availability, meaning an adequate supply of foody, utilization, meaning the ability to have food that is nutritious, safe, and culturally appropriate, and stability, meaning the ability to maintain food access, utilization, and stability. Being food secure helps maintain physical and mental well-being. Understanding the level of food insecurity in the community helps to identify who is most vulnerable to high food costs and who may experience changes to food costs disproportionately. Food insecurity can be the result of several factors, including inflation, poverty, addictions, mental health, and lack of education and employment opportunities. Changes as a result of industrial development can impact a community's food security (IAIA, 2023).

The majority (30%) of Webequie First Nation Socio-Economic Survey (SNC-Lavalin, 2022b) respondents said they spend approximately $751 to $1,000 per month on groceries, while 29% of respondents said they lacked access to food distribution programs, and 13.7% said they had access to a food distribution program but chose not to use it. Approximately 57% of respondents who live in Webequie said they access food distribution services either daily, weekly, monthly, or annually. Of those who accessed food distribution programs, 35.9% said they do so annually. Food insecurity in Webequie is not a new issue, as the Webequie First Nation Well-Being Survey (Webequie First Nation, 2014) revealed that 94% of households were affected by some form of food insecurity, including that they did not have enough food, skipped meals, or consumed reduced portion sizes, with 38% reporting that this was often the case. Further, 90% of households were unable to afford healthy balanced meals sometimes or often. Only 45% of households said they include traditional food items (e.g., local fish, game meat, berries) in their meals two or more times per week, which could, in part, be due to the high costs associated with accessing the land for traditional activities like hunting and fishing. Thus, not only do the high costs of food from the store create a barrier to food security for Webequie residents,

[35] Ontario Works is a program which provides individuals with up to $733 per month to help with living expenses, including food, and rent, health benefits, and employment supports to help individuals find and keep a job (e.g., workshops for resume writing, job counselling, job-specific training and basic education) (Government of Ontario, 2023).

but high costs associated with land-based activities further create a barrier to consuming country foods to supplement their diets.

Women are often more vulnerable to food insecurity, as they are more likely to skip meals to ensure their children, family members, and household breadwinner(s) are fed before them (Koutouki, Lofts, & Davidian, 2018). One knowledge holder shared that food insecurity presents another barrier for women's education and training in the community, questioning how women could have the opportunity to think about education and training when instead they must worry about more pressing issues like food and health (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a). Lack of healthy affordable foods also has a disproportionate affect on children and youth, who, according to Webequie residents, are often consuming unhealthy "sugary" foods (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a).

Results from the Webequie First Nation Country Foods Consumption and Use Survey suggest some Webequie residents consume country foods at least on a weekly basis. Approximately 71% of respondents indicated they consume locally harvested fish for at least one meal per week, with some indicating 2 to 3 meals per week. Approximately 86% said they consume wild game at least one meal per week, with one respondent indicating they consume wild game 4 or more meals per week. Approximately 64% said they consume migratory birds at least one meal per week, with some indicating they consume migratory birds up to 3 meals per week. Other country foods consumed in Webequie, but less frequently, include gooseberries, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, service/June/saskatoon berries, Labrador (tea), muskrat root, mint, cedar (tea), and bear root (SNC-Lavalin, 2022c). Despite the high costs associated with getting out on the land to harvest foods, survey responses indicate some members still have somewhat regular access to country food in their weekly diet. This may be attributed, in part, to a collective value of sharing in the community. According to the Webequie First Nation Well-Being Survey (Webequie First Nation, 2014), over 60% of households sometimes or regularly share food, wood, or help others, with sharing food between households being the most common practice as 86% of households indicated they share food sometimes or regularly with other households. This suggests that those who do have the means to go harvesting are able and willing to share their harvest with their fellow family and community members, indicating social connectedness of the community.

The WSR Project will reduce the length of winter road used to transport goods to the community in the winter but will not eliminate it entirely (i.e., will not provide all-season access south), therefore no impacts to costs of goods and services in the community are anticipated.

If planned for appropriately, the Project could increase employment in the community, both directly and indirectly, increasing jobs and income and subsequently allowing residents increased means to obtain the essentials they need to be more food secure, heat their homes, and access to the supplies that enable people to spend time on the land for harvesting (CRIAW, 2014). Many Webequie residents are hopeful that Project-related employment and increase in incomes could alleviate burdens of the heavy costs in the community, particularly when it comes to fresh foods, household materials, fuel, and transportation (SNC-Lavalin, 2022a; 2022b). However, vulnerable community members, such as women, youth, Elders, and individuals living with disabilities, face additional barriers to employment opportunities, making them less likely to benefit from income opportunities brought by the WSR Project. Community members employed by the Project are likely to experience higher incomes, which can create disparities between these subgroups (CRIAW, 2014; Ninomiya et al., 2023).

6.2.1.2 Economic Development

Economic development is important for growing Indigenous communities as it allows for more resources and income to flow into the community. By attracting business partners to work with the community, more job and training opportunities for Indigenous people become available. This section outlines the economic development within communities in the LSA, including the current services that are available to communities, as well as economic initiatives each community is involved with. The information presented in this section will help identify service gaps and community capacity to implement economic development plans and initiatives that provide the rationale for the Project.

Within the LSA, there are three organizations (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation, and Matawa First Nations Management) who provide resources to business and individuals to encourage economic growth. A main focus of these organizations is providing support to businesses through funding opportunities, training, and advisory services.

Additionally, many of the Indigenous communities work independently to support their local economy and create opportunities for community members. Initiatives range from offering training opportunities, providing access to funding, developing land use plans, and managing business opportunities.

6.2.1.2.1 Webequie First Nation

Webequie First Nation council is responsible for stimulating local economy and developing economic initiatives and opportunities for the community (211 Ontario North, 2022). Included within these responsibilities are the following activities (211 Ontario, 2023a):

- Provide information, training, and educational workshops to enhance employability skills;
- Development of plans for the use of traditional lands for community members;
- Access funding for band-owned business ventures;
- Provide coaching in areas such as business plan development and assistance in obtaining financial support for people wanting to start own business;
- Current economic initiatives that Webequie First Nation is involved with include (211 Ontario, 2023a):
  - Management of the Webequie Business Centre;
  - Advisory for Northwest Company's Northern Store;
  - Business assistance for Webequie Motel, which consists of one suite and five double rooms;
  - Collaboration with provincial and federal government, and Noront on the WSR, a 107 km proposed road to be built from the Webequie airport to Ring of Fire mine site; and
  - Assistance with proposed construction of a new Community Readiness & Wellness Centre; announcement in August 2020 that Webequie received a FedNor grant of $546,000 towards the Project.

6.2.1.2.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Nishnawbe Aski Nation

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation is the provincial territorial governing body of all Indigenous communities in the LSA and RSA with the exception of Fort Albany First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation. Resource development (i.e., mining and forestry), small business and employment and training all fall under the Economic Development portfolio at Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary focus of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation during the 2020-2021 fiscal year was to verify that public health was at the forefront of any work or advances undertaken at the community level. The Economic Development portfolio also included food security/food self-determination. As the COVID-19 pandemic progressed, monitoring food security throughout Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory became critical, as did intervening and assisting communities directly when issues arose.

Resources and services offered by Nishnawbe Aski Nation include the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund which operates as a Client Services office which provides business and economic development services to First Nations communities and majority-owned Aboriginal businesses in Northern Ontario. The following services are offered (211 Ontario, 2021a):

- Appraisal Services;

- Bookkeeping Training;
- Business Support Services;
- Community Planning;
- Due Diligence Services;
- Financing (Loans and Grants); and
- Workshops.

Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation

The Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation provides technical and professional advisory services and training to enhance managements skills and opportunities within the Mushkegowuk Region including in the Mushkegowuk Region are Attawapiskat First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Kashechewan First and Weenusk First Nation.

Programs and services offered by the Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation include (211 Ontario North, 2021):

- Commercial/Business Financing
  - Offers financing in the form of loans, loan guarantees, and equity participation to individuals or for-profit businesses with a well-documented business plan seeking to establish or expand a new or existing business; and
  - Offers financing in the form of a loan to assist Aboriginal entrepreneurs with business start-ups or expansion.
- Business Advisory and Support Services
  - Works at the community and regional levels to promote partnerships and develop opportunities for economic growth and job creation for Aboriginal businesses and communities;
  - Offers self-employment benefits in partnership with Mushkegowuk Council Employment and Training Services;
  - Provides business research and technical support; and
  - Assists with online business name registration.
- Community Economic Development Strategic Planning Support
  - Offers technical support to member communities who are undertaking community strategic planning projects.
- Financing for Micro-Community Economic Development Projects
  - Assists in the implementation of small-scale community economic development initiatives.

Matawa First Nations Management

The Matawa First Nations Management offers economic development services to member First Nations within Matawa Territory. Included within the Matawa Territory is Eabametoong First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, and Webequie First Nation.

The services provided include (211 Ontario North, 2023a):

- Technical and professional advisory services and training to enhance the overall economic opportunities and management skills of the Matawa Area First Nations;
- Promoting and supporting sustainable development that will build each community's economic strength;
- Assisting in identifying and securing funding opportunities and other resources for community economic development;
- Advising and assisting in the creation of employment opportunities for community members;
- Providing support for diversified employment, skilled workforce, competitiveness, investment and industry; and

- Working to improve/enhance the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses.

Marten Falls First Nation

The Marten Falls First Nation Economic Development department is responsible for stimulating local economy and developing economic initiatives and opportunities for the community. They provide the following services:

- Provide information, training, and educational workshops to enhance employability skills;
- Develop plans for the use of traditional lands for community members;
- Access funding for Band-owned business ventures;
- Coaching in areas such as business plan development and assistance in obtaining financial support for people wanting to start their own business;
- Maintain the local business directory; and
- Employment Counselling.

Local economic initiatives that Marten Falls First Nation is involved with include (211 Ontario, 2022; Marten Falls First Nation, 2024; Marten Falls First Nation, 2025):

- Advisory for local businesses including Bigfoot Variety, the grocery store, and a fuel supply business;
- Assisting in the study of connecting the community by road (new winter road) to the permanent highway system;
- Developing a comprehensive community profile to determine community assets, labour force inventory and land inventory for new business development as these all relate to opportunities from the Ring of Fire mining venture; and
- Ongoing EA/IS draft for the MFCAR has been submitted for review and comments as of 2025.

Nibinamik First Nation

Economic initiatives that Nibinamik First Nation is involved with include (211 Ontario North, 2023b):

- Advisory capacity for Northern Store;
- Nibinamik operates a suite of amenities such as the hotel, Northern Store, convenience store and gas station
- Assistance and advisory services for private businesses;
- Partnership with 11 other Indigenous communities and groups in the Wasaya Group Inc, who own several businesses including Wasaya Airways LP;
- Assistance with the feasibility study initiated in Jun 2015, for a community multi-purpose building; and
- Collaboration on the community housing plan set in 2017.

Neskantaga First Nation

Economic initiatives that Neskantaga First Nation is involved with include (211 Ontario North, 2023c):

- A signed business partnership (2014) with North Star Air Ltd along with its affiliate Cargo North;
- Opening of the Neskantaga Training Centre (August 2014), a new innovative facility and collaboration technology centre which delivers training directly to the community (Aecon, 2023); and
- Member of Rapid Lynx Corporation, owned and operated by the 6 Matawa First Nation communities, formed to improve the internet services within each community.

Kasabonika Lake First Nation

Economic initiatives that Kasabonika Lake First Nation is involved with include (211 Ontario North, 2023d):

- Advisory capacity for Northern Store and Kasabonika Small Business Centre;
- Assistance and business advisory for private businesses;
- Partnership with 11 other Indigenous communities in the Wasaya Group Inc, who own several businesses including Wasaya Airways LP;
- Joint ownership of Wataynikaneyap Power with 23 other First Nations and Goldcorps, to reinforce transmission lines to Pickle Lake and Musselwhite Mine and to construct new transmission lines north of Pickle Lake to service remote Indigenous communities;
- Resource development with approximately 25 licensed prospectors staking claims in Kasabonika territory, and with hydro-electric and renewable energy;
- Owns a portable diamond drill to provide drilling services to exploration companies in the area that is 300 km NE of Thunder Bay;
- Exploration agreements and joint venture projects with mining companies such as DeBeers Canada;
- Advisory for construction of a new, cost-effective wastewater treatment system with the contract awarded to Arnason Industries Ltd.;
- Collaboration on renovation/construction projects including the upgrade to Emily Anderson Memorial Menoyawin Health Centre completed August 2019 and the construction of a new Grade 7-12 school slated for completion in 2022; and
- ThawiKayhiGan Group (TKG Group) was established in 2018 and is owned equally by Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake), Wapekeka, Wawakapewin and Wunnumin Lake First Nations.

Attawapiskat First Nation

Attawapiskat Development Corporation is responsible for stimulating local economy and developing economic initiatives and opportunities for Attawapiskat First Nation.

- Economic initiatives that Attawapiskat Development Corporation is involved with include (211 Ontario, 2021b):
- Neegan Naynowan Stantec LP, a 51% owned Attawapiskat Aboriginal business which provides consulting, engineering and environmental services for infrastructure, industrial, urban planning, natural resources, and environmental projects;
- Advisory for local business such as the Northern Store and Warehouse; and
- Operates and manages the James Bay Winter Road through a jointly owned corporation with Fort Albany and Kashechewan First Nations.

6.2.1.3 Traditional Economy

A traditional economy is a system that relies on customs, history, and time-honored beliefs. Tradition guides economic decisions such as production and distribution. Communities with traditional economies depend on agriculture, fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering, or some combination of them (Amadeo, 2022). This section outlines the traditional economy within communities in the LSA to identifies community concerns with the Project, specifically their view as to how the Project could affect the traditional economy.

Tradition is an important cultural aspect of Indigenous communities who are very connected to the lands on which they live.

The traditional economy is an important cultural and economic aspect within the LSA communities. Unfortunately, traditional economy activities are not widely reported making it difficult to quantify the economic impact they have on the community's economy.

In surveys conducted by SNC-Lavalin during 2022, 94 out of 152 respondents from Webequie First Nation indicated that they have concerns about the loss of traditional culture in Webequie First Nation. Respondents indicated that the main concerns were loss of traditional land use activities, traditional teachings, traditional language, and traditional values.

Note: The Project Team is working with communities that are providing information, including the traditional economy of their community. This information will be incorporated as it becomes available.

6.2.1.3.1 Webequie First Nation

Traditional economic activity is typically not captured by commonly used data sources. It is therefore difficult to provide a complete picture of the labour market in Webequie as sources such as the Canada Census of Population do not gather specific information on traditional economic activities (Local Employment Planning Council, 2017).

In surveys conducted by SNC-Lavalin during 2022, Webequie residents were asked questions relating to the traditional culture in the area (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). The findings are presented in **Table 6-55** and **Table 6-56**.

Table 6-55: Do you Have Concerns About the Loss of Traditional Culture in Webequie First Nation?

Yes/No/Unsure/Don't know	Count	Distribution
Yes	94	61.8%
No	31	20.4%
Unsure/Don't know	27	17.8%
Total	**152**	**100%**

Source: SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

Table 6-56: If you Have Concerns About the Loss of Traditional Culture in Webequie First Nation, What are Those Concerns?

Concerns	Count	Distribution
Loss of traditional land use activities	84	23.9%
Loss of traditional teachings	87	24.8%
Loss of traditional language	100	28.5%
Loss of traditional values	80	22.8%
Total	**351**	**100%**

Source : SNC-Lavalin, 2022.

6.2.1.3.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Traditional economic activity is typically not captured by commonly used data sources. It is therefore difficult to provide a complete picture of the labour market in Indigenous communities as sources such as the Canada Census of Population do not gather specific information on traditional economic activities (Local Employment Planning Council, 2017).

Note: The Project Team is working with communities that are providing information, including the traditional economy of their community. This information will be incorporated as it becomes available.

6.2.2 Regional Study Area

The RSA is comprised of three census divisions: Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District. Within these divisions there are 114 census sub-divisions which include 72 Indigenous communities. The Districts are inclusive of the 22 RSA Indigenous communities with the majority existing withing the Kenora District.

The Thunder Bay District is a supply hub for the Northern Ontario with nearly double the GDP of the Kenora and Cochrane Districts.

Combined, the 3 RSA Districts cover nearly 650,000 km^2, this equates to over 70% of Ontario's land mass.

6.2.2.1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The GDP) is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced and sold in a specific time period, typically expressed annually, within a specified geographical region. This section describes the GDP for districts in the RSA, including the annual GDP and changes in GDP. The information provided in this section will help identify potential effects of the Project on GDP in the RSA.

Both the Kenora and Cochrane Districts saw a decline in GDP over the reported years. The Kenora Districts GDP between 2006 and 2016 declined over 10%. This trend reflects changes in the size and occupational distribution of employment in the District (Northern Policy Institute, 2019a). Between 2016 and 2021, the Thunder Bay District saw consistent growth in GDP with an overall growth of 3.9%; a summary is provided below:

- The Kenora District had a 10% decline in GDP from 2006 to 2016;
- The Thunder Bay District had approximate growth in GDP of 4% from 2016 to 2021; and
- GDP in the Cochrane District decreased by approximately 0.8%.

6.2.2.1.1 Kenora District

Table 6-57 presents the GDP for the Kenora District for 2006 and 2016 (Northern Policy Institute, 2019a), which is summarized below:

- Between 2006 and 2016 there was a decline in GDP of just over 10%;
- These trends reflect changes in the size and occupational distribution of employment in the district; and
- The Kenora District represents 0.2% of Ontario's GDP in 2016.

Table 6-57: GDP for Kenora District (2006 – 2016) (Expressed in millions of dollars)

Year	2006	2016	2006 – 2016 Growth	2006 – 2016 % Change
GDP	2,309	2,077	-232	-10.1%

Source: Northern Policy Institute, 2019a.

6.2.2.1.2 Thunder Bay District

- Table 6-58 presents the GDP for the Thunder Bay District between 2016 and 2021 (Statistics Canada, 2022a), summarized below:
  - Between 2016 and 2021 there was an approximate growth in GDP of 4% in the Thunder Bay District; and
  - GDP is growing at a constant rate over the period between 2016 and 2021.

Table 6-58: GDP for Thunder Bay District (2016 – 2021) (Expressed in millions of 2007 dollars)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016 – 2021 Change	2016 – 2021 % Change
GDP	4,564	4,575	4,616	4,658	4,700	4,744	180	3.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.2.2.1.3 Cochrane District

Table 6-59 presents the GDP for the Cochrane District for 2001 and 2016 (Northern Policy Institute, 2019b):

- GDP is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced and sold in a specific time period, typically expressed annually, within a specified geographical region. Between 2001 and 2016 GDP in the Cochrane District decreased by approximately 0.8%; and
- Between 2001 and 2016 GDP in the Cochrane District decreased by approximately 0.8%.

Table 6-59: GDP for Cochrane District (2001 – 2016) (Expressed in millions of 2010 dollars)

Year	2001	2016	2001 – 2016 Growth	2001 – 2016 % Change
GDP	2,996.6	2,973.5	-23.1	-0.8%

Source: Northern Policy Institute, 2019b.

6.2.2.2 Cost of Living

This section presents the cost of living for districts within the RSA, including income per household and the percentage of income that is spent on renting/mortgaging per month, energy, and groceries.

Within the RSA Districts, the number of households spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs in 2021 is approximately equal across the RSA at 13-14% of households. This is well below the Ontario average 21% of households, indicating a lower cost of living than other areas in Ontario.

Although the cost of living in the RSA is lower in comparison to other areas in Canada, this does not necessarily make it affordable. The cost of living across Canada continues to grow with high inflation, growing interest rates, and the increasing cost of basic needs:

- Both shelter costs and the cost of purchasing a house in Kenora District are significantly less than the provincial averages;
- Of the nearly 19,000 owner or tenant occupied dwellings in the Kenora District, 13% are spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs;
- The cost of living in Thunder Bay District is considerably lower than other major Canadian cities. The District of Thunder Bay was ranked number 1 out of 227 major urban international cities for affordable housing;
- Of the nearly 63,000 owner or tenant occupied dwellings in the Thunder Bay District, 14% are spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs; and
- Of the 32,625 owner or tenant occupied dwellings in the Cochrane District, 14% are spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs.

6.2.2.2.1 Kenora District

The largest census subdivision within the Kenora District is the City of Kenora, which accounts for approximately 23% of the population. **Table 6-60** presents a comparison of shelter affordability between the City of Kenora and Ontario.

Both shelter costs and the cost of purchasing a house in Kenora are significantly less than the provincial averages (Choose Kenora, 2023).

Table 6-60: Shelter Costs and Dwelling Values, City of Kenora vs Ontario, 2016

	Owned – Kenora	Rented Kenora	Owned – Ontario	Rented – Ontario
Median shelter cost	$1,002	$882	$1,299	$1,045
Average shelter cost	$1,155	$873	$1,463	$1,109
Median dwelling value	$225,210	-	$400,496	-
Average dwelling value	$260,789	-	$506,409	-

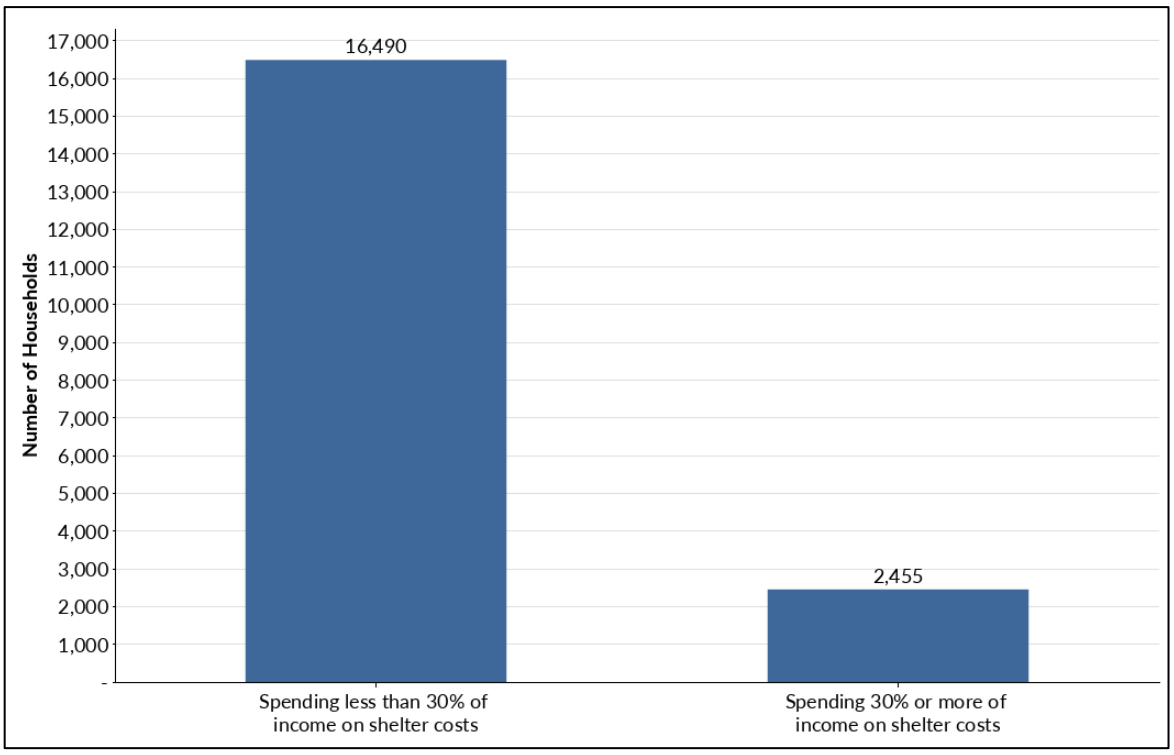
Source: Choose Kenora, 2023.

Note: Shelter cost refers to the average monthly total of all shelter expenses paid by households that own or rent their dwelling. Value (owner estimated) of private dwelling – Refers to the dollar amount expected by the owner if the asset were to be sold.

Figure 6-56 and **Table 6-61** present the number of households spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs for Kenora District in 2021. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Distribution Station housing is considered to be affordable when a household spends less than 30% of its pre-tax income on adequate shelter. Households that spend more than 30% of their income on shelter are deemed to be in core housing need (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2020).

Of the nearly 19,000 owner or tenant occupied dwellings in the Kenora District, 13% are spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Figure 6-56: Distribution of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs for Kenora District (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-61: Distribution of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs for Kenora District (2021)

Household Spending on Shelter Costs	Count	Distribution
Spending less than 30% of income on shelter costs	16,490	87%
Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs	2,455	13%
Total Owner and Tenant Households	**18,945**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

There are currently federal supported programs such as the 'Harvesters Support Program' introduced in 2022 which are made available through local services such as Mushkegowuk Council, which focuses on increasing communities' access to food security initiatives, enhancing local community food systems, restoring cultural traditions and increasing access to traditional foods and knowledge (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). The program provides services and facilities such as community feasts and hunts, community food sharing events, investments for freezers, land-based teachings, assistance for purchase of equipment and supplies (including clothing, footwear, and shelter), assistance for obtaining licenses and trainings, community hampers, school nutrition programs and direct food access for community members. Some of the RSA communities are eligible for this program via relevant recipient organizations (Nutrition North Canada, 2023):

- Kashechewan First Nation – through Mushkegowuk Council; and
- Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Wawakapewin First Nation, Wunnummin Lake First nation, Wapekeka First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation – through Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board).

6.2.2.2.2 Thunder Bay District

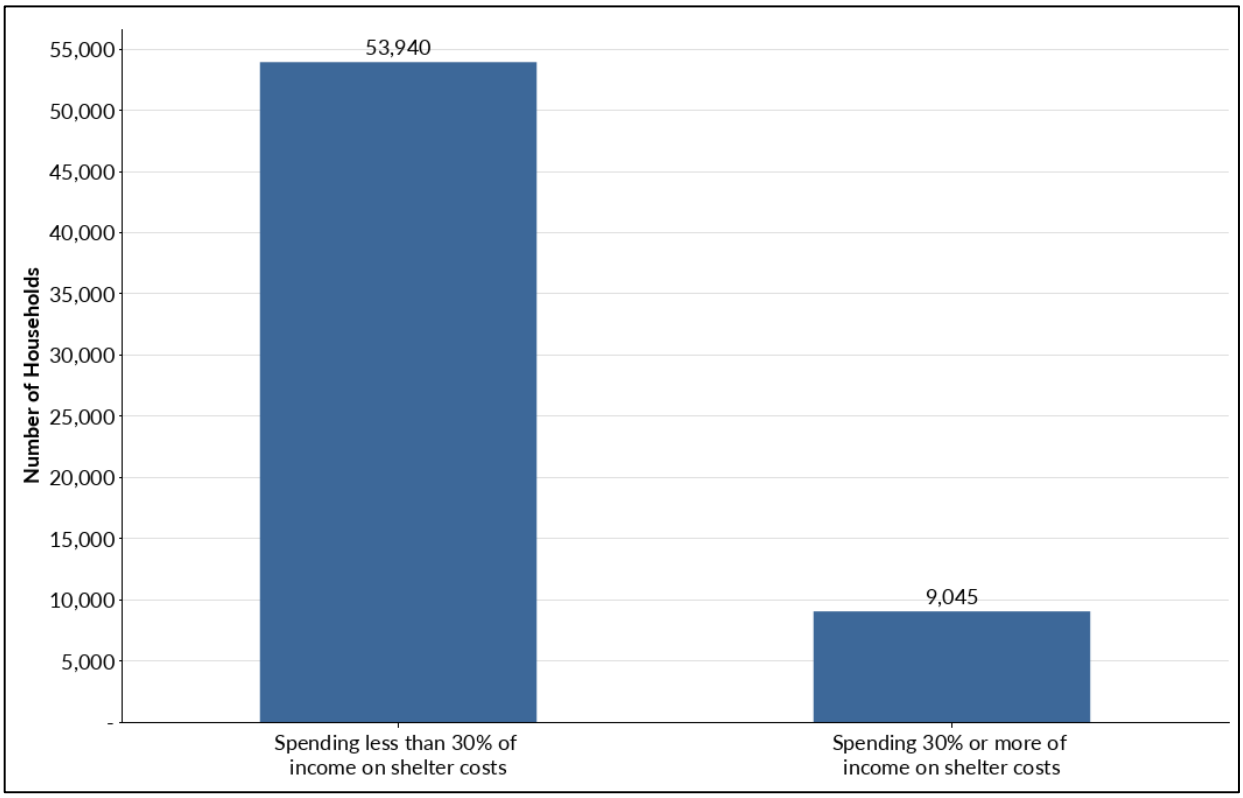
The cost of living in Thunder Bay is considerably lower than other major Canadian cities. The City of Thunder Bay was ranked number 1 out of 227 major urban international cities for affordable housing. According to the 2018 Rental Market Report, renting a two-bedroom in Thunder Bay costs and average of $1,037 per month, approximately $600 less than Vancouver. A one-bedroom apartment averages $883, 58% less than Toronto (Webster, N.A.).

While Thunder Bay ranks well in comparison to other major Canadian cities, that does not make it affordable. The Market Basket Measure (MBM) threshold for Thunder Bay is $44,300 per year (Krysowaty, 2021). The MBM refers to Canada's official measure of poverty based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living developed by ESDC. The MBM thresholds represent the costs of specified qualities and quantities of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and other necessities for a reference family of two adults and two children (Krysowaty, 2021).

Figure 6-57 and **Table 6-62** present the number of households spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs for Thunder Bay District in 2021. According to the CMHC housing is considered to be affordable when a household spends less than 30% of its pre-tax income on adequate shelter. Households that spend more than 30% of their income on shelter are deemed to be in core housing need (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2020).

Of the nearly 63,000 owner or tenant occupied dwellings in the Thunder Bay District, 14% are spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Figure 6-57: Distribution of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs for Thunder Bay District (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-62: Distribution of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs for Thunder Bay District (2021)

Household Spending on Shelter Costs	Count	Distribution
Spending less than 30% of income on shelter costs	53,940	86%
Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs	9,045	14%
Total Owner and Tenant Households	**62,985**	**100%**

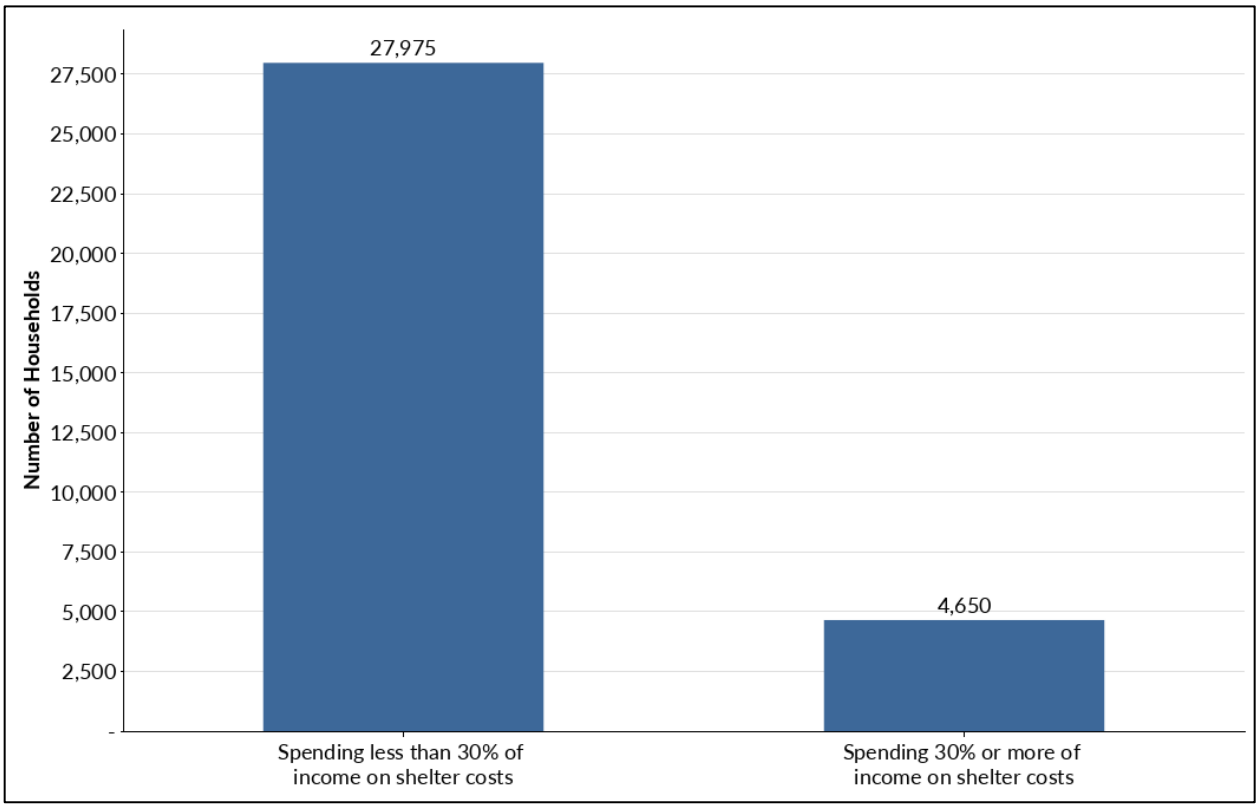
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

6.2.2.2.3 Cochrane District

Figure 6-58 and **Table 6-63** present the number of households spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs for Cochrane District in 2021. According to the CMHC, housing is considered to be affordable when a household spends less than 30% of its pre-tax income on adequate shelter. Households that spend more than 30% of their income on shelter are deemed to be in core housing need (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2020).

Of the 32,625 owner or tenant occupied dwellings in the Cochrane District, 14% are spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs (Statistics Canada, 2022a).

Figure 6-58: Distribution of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs for Cochrane District (2021)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

Table 6-63: Distribution of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Shelter Costs, Cochrane District (2021)

Household Spending on Shelter Costs	Count	Distribution
Spending less than 30% of income on shelter costs	27,975	86%
Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs	4,650	14%
Total Owner and Tenant Households	**32,625**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a.

There are currently federal supported programs such as the 'Harvesters Support Program' introduced in 2022 which are made available through local services such as Mushkegowuk Council, which focuses on increasing communities' access to food security initiatives, enhancing local community food systems, restoring cultural traditions and increasing access to traditional foods and knowledge (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, 2023). The program provides services and facilities such as community feasts and hunts, community food sharing events, investments for freezers, land-based teachings, assistance for purchase of equipment and supplies (including clothing, footwear, and shelter), assistance for obtaining licenses and trainings, community hampers, school nutrition programs and direct food access for community members. Some of the RSA communities are eligible for this program via relevant recipient organizations: Fort Albany First Nation (through Mushkegowuk Council) (Nutrition North Canada, 2023).

6.2.2.3 Economic Development

The RSA is comprised of over 100 census sub-divisions, all of which work towards economic development in their communities and Ontario. There are certain census sub-divisions driving economic growth in the study area which include: the City of Kenora, the City of Dryden, the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, the City of Thunder Bay, the City of Timmins and the Town of Cochrane. Combined, these census sub-divisions account for approximately 64% of the RSA population.

The municipalities within the RSA are focused on economic development and sustainable growth. Common economic aspirations between the 6 previously mentioned municipalities include:

- Supporting and growing local businesses;
- Improving infrastructure;
- Attract skilled labourers to Northern Ontario; and
- Support and increase tourism.

It is important to highlight that the City of Thunder Bay in particular is focused on becoming a hub for mining and forest products services, supply, and manufacturing.

The Kenora District is a census division in northwestern Ontario and is comprised of 57 census subdivisions, 47 of which are Indigenous communities. In the City of Kenora's 5-year Tourism and Economic Development Strategy, two economic development strategies are listed, which are to activate development on Kenora's vacant and underutilized lands, and support the growth and retention of local businesses and emerging sections.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2020-2025 Strategic Plan states the following goals for community innovation and development:

- Provide infrastructure and housing to meet the needs of our community, now and as it grows;
- Collaborate with community partners to foster growth and economic development;
- Enable community growth through innovative, proactive planning; and
- Strengthen and enhance Sioux Lookout's status as "Hub of the North".

The Thunder Bay District is a census division in Northwestern Ontario and is comprised of 34 census subdivisions, 18 of which are Indigenous communities. The City of Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan states the following action items and economic development activities:

- Grow, expand, and promote the City of Thunder Bay as the regional centre and world leader for mining and forest products services, supply, and manufacturing;
- Attract, integrate, and retain a highly skilled workforce focusing on our youth, national and global immigrants, and regional Indigenous communities;
- Becoming Canada's premier outdoor city, weaving our connectivity to our natural environment to our signature urban culinary and cultural attractions to create memorable leisure, corporate and sport event experiences for visitors;
- Drive the growth and progression of the City of Thunder Bay into a safe, welcoming community where people work, live, and play while having access to comprehensive health care, education, and employment opportunities with an affordable, high-quality lifestyle; and
- Be a cornerstone and catalyst for local and regional entrepreneur support to help drive the creation of new business, and higher quality employment opportunities that offer new services and products to markets everywhere.

The Cochrane District is a census division in northwestern Ontario and is comprised of 23 census subdivisions, seven of which are Indigenous communities. The Ontario government is providing more than $6.3 million through the NOHFC to seven economic development projects in Cochrane District.

6.2.2.3.1 Kenora District

The Kenora District is a census division in northwestern Ontario. It is comprised of 57 census subdivisions, 47 of which are First Nation communities. Combined, the City of Kenora, the City of Dryden, and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout make up 43% of the District's population.

Kenora District's economy is supported by several key sectors, including manufacturing, health care, public administration, forestry, mining services, culture and recreation, construction, and tourism.

The City of Kenora 5-year Tourism and Economic Development Strategy sets out three goals, tourism development, economic development, and tourism and economic foundations, with nine accompanying objectives. Of the nine objectives listed in the Strategy, two pertain to economic development (City of Kenora, 2021):

- Activate development on Kenora's vacant and underutilized lands:
  - Improve the development readiness of publicly owned residential, commercial, and industrial lands.
  - Improve awareness of development opportunities, incentives, and partnerships available for vacant and underutilized lands through marketing efforts.
- Support the growth and retention of local businesses and emerging sections:
  - Establish a centralized business hub and resource centre to support local businesses.
  - Position Kenora to take advantage of specific strategic sector opportunities.
  - Provide supports and information to new and existing businesses through community partner and City led initiatives.
  - Prioritize support of COVID-19 response and relief efforts to assist the local business community.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2020-2025 Strategic Plan states the following goals for community innovation and development (Municipality of Sioux Lookout, 2020):

- Provide infrastructure and housing to meet the needs of our community, now and as it grows:
  - Confirm that our assets are sustainable and that they will meet our long-term needs.
  - Use municipal best practices to identify innovative approaches to managing our infrastructure.
  - Verify that our transportation infrastructure allows people to get around safely and efficiently.
  - Encourage an increase in the housing available in Sioux Lookout to meet our current and future needs.
- Collaborate with community partners to foster growth and economic development:
  - Work proactively with local and regional economic development groups to advance our community's best interests;
  - Support local efforts to improve Sioux Lookout as a place to do business.
  - Work with local partners to promote and encourage tourism.
  - Support public transportation to make it available and useful to as many of our residents as possible.
- Enable community growth through innovative, proactive planning:
  - Confirm that the Municipality's planning policies and practices are appropriate to address current needs and accommodate future growth.
  - Work to secure sufficient commercial property to attract businesses to Sioux Lookout.
  - Minimize regulatory obstacles to development while ensuring appropriate processes are followed.

- Develop programs and policies that encourage new businesses to move to Sioux Lookout and existing ones to stay here.

- Strengthen and enhance Sioux Lookout's status as "Hub of the North":
  - Assure that YXL remains the #1 airport in our area.
  - Collaborate with the hospital to maintain a strong working relationship.
  - Consider the implications for Indigenous people of any Municipal policies.
  - Recognize that addressing our social issues enhances Sioux Lookout's status as "Hub of the North".

6.2.2.3.2 Thunder Bay District

The Thunder Bay District is a census division in northwestern Ontario. It is comprised of 34 census subdivisions which includes 18 Indigenous communities. The City of Thunder Bay represents nearly 75% of the Thunder Bay District population. Due to its size, the City of Thunder Bay drives a lot of the economic activity and growth within the District.

The City of Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan states the following action items and economic development activities as well as steps to be taken to achieve them (Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission, 2022):

- Grow, expand, and promote the City of Thunder Bay as the regional centre and world leader for mining and forest products services, supply, and manufacturing:
  - Position and market the City of Thunder Bay as the regional hub for services and supplies for northwestern Ontario exploration and mining projects.
  - Attract investment ready projects in manufacturing, mining, commodity processing, agriculture, and energy, promoting the added values of Indigenous partnerships.
  - Support research, innovation and the commercialization of natural resource-based commodities, products, and energy.
- Attract, integrate, and retain a highly skilled workforce focusing on our youth, national and global immigrants, and regional Indigenous communities:
  - Develop a labour attraction and growth plan to meet the current and future needs of employers.
  - Expand immigration attraction and integration services.
  - Work with partners to support Indigenous employment agencies and training organizations.
  - Through City of Thunder Bay's education system attract and retain local and Indigenous youth to enhance our future's workforce.
- Becoming Canada's premier outdoor city, weaving our connectivity to our natural environment to our signature urban culinary and cultural attractions to create memorable leisure, corporate and sport event experiences for visitors:
  - Expand and improve year-round visitor experiences through an increased focus on destination development.
  - Increase the economic impact of tourism through enhanced visitor attraction and retention strategies.
  - Support Indigenous tourism development and promotion.
  - Improve visitor movement through improved wayfinding.
  - Support tourism industry with the tools they needed to start-up, diversify, and expand.
- Drive the growth and progression of the City of Thunder Bay into a safe, welcoming community where people work, live, and play while having access to comprehensive health care, education, and employment opportunities with an affordable, high-quality lifestyle:
  - Make the City of Thunder Bay a place all people want to live and do business.
  - Promote the quality of City of Thunder Bay's lifestyle to outside markets to attract new residents, workers, and business.

- Support infrastructure needs of the community through building partnerships and seeking funding assistance for critical projects.
- Using community and Indigenous partnerships, identify initiatives to create welcoming neighbourhoods and public places for business.
- Maximize the City of Thunder Bay's position as the regional centre for health services in northwestern Ontario.

- Be a cornerstone and catalyst for local and regional entrepreneur support to help drive the creation of new business, and higher quality employment opportunities that offer new services and products to markets everywhere:
  - Strengthen succession planning services to address challenges and needs for small business owners.
  - Provide supports to generate new business start-ups and encourage entrepreneurship.
  - Through Indigenous partnerships, expand program development to address Indigenous small business challenges and needs.
  - Build a welcoming community for new and expanding businesses.
  - Enhance newcomer to Canada support systems.

6.2.2.3.3 Cochrane District

The Cochrane District is a census division in northeastern Ontario. It is comprised of 23 census subdivisions which include seven Indigenous communities. Approximately 60% of the Cochrane District population is in the City of Timmins and the Town of Cochrane.

The Ontario government is providing more than $6.3 million through the NOHFC to seven economic development projects in Cochrane District. Ontario is investing in Cochrane's prosperity and sustainability, while helping build a stronger Ontario by creating good-paying jobs, expanding business operations, supporting critical infrastructure, and improving quality of life in the North (Government of Ontario, 2022).

- Examples of projects receiving NOHFC funding include (Government of Ontario, 2022):
- $3,585,603 for Rockshield Engineered Wood Products to renovate its facility and purchase equipment to improve mill productivity and efficiency.
- $1,000,000 for the Town of Cochrane to install municipal water and wastewater infrastructure along a section of Highway 11 South – a segment of the Trans-Canada Highway – to support further commercial development along the corridor.
- $42,500 for the Town of Cochrane to develop a feasibility study to establish a research isolation facility at the Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat to enhance polar bear care and support research on climate change and sustainability of the polar bear population.
- The NOHFC promotes economic prosperity across northern Ontario by providing financial assistance to projects – big and small, rural, and urban – that stimulate growth, job creation and skills development. Since June 2018, the NOHFC has invested more than $473 million in 4,244 projects in northern Ontario, leveraging more than $1.5 billion in investment and creating or sustaining over 6,600 jobs.

6.3 Business Environment

Existing conditions of business environment in the LSA and RSA are described in this section using the following indicators:

- Main industry employers;
- Local economy; and
- Mining, aggregate, and forestry activity.

6.3.1 Local Study Area

6.3.1.1 Local Economy

A high-level description of the local economy of other Local Study Area (LSA) Indigenous communities is presented below, based on data available that describes occupations and industry spending using an industry database for statistical information, Lightcast.[36]

Webequie and the other First Nation communities included in the LSA are all heavily reliant on outside communities to meet their demand for goods and services. The LSA is heavily dependent on larger outside communities to meet supply and demand needs. As the LSA is made up of remote First Nation communities there are supply chain challenges.

In terms of jobs, public administration is the largest employment industry within the LSA with 147 jobs in Webequie First Nation and 635 jobs in the other LSA communities in 2022. Jobs within public administration make up 47% of all jobs in the LSA.

Of the 21 industries identified, there are 7 present in Webequie First Nation and 12 present within the whole of the other LSA communities. The industries with the largest job presence within the other LSA Indigenous communities in 2022 include – public administration, health care and social assistance and educational services The industries with the highest growth in jobs between 2018 and 2022 include retail trade (32%), public administration (28%), and health care and social assistance (25%).

Out of approximately $101 million in spending across all industries in the other LSA Indigenous communities in 2020, the percentage of in-region purchases across all industries is low. This amounted to under $4 million of purchases which represents 3.9% of total purchases in 2020. The majority of demand for goods and services within the LSA Indigenous communities is met by imports (92.3%).

Traditional economy is not well reported and not quantified. However, where information is available, context is provided, as this is an important aspect of the socio-economic conditions of community members.

6.3.1.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Table 6-64 presents a breakdown of all industries using the 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)[37] codes and their presence within the geographical boarders of Webequie First Nation in 2018 and 2022.

The industries with the highest growth between 2018 and 2022 include public administration (68%), educational services (35%), and health care and social assistance (35%).

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36 Lightcast products provide detailed information about occupations, skills in demand, and career pathways, providing labor market insight to employers, educational institutions, and government agencies.

37 The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data. The structure of NAICS is hierarchical with five levels, level 1 having 2-digits and level 5 having 6 digits. As the level increases the classification becomes more detailed.

Table 6-64: All Industry Presence in Webequie First Nation (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	0	0	0	0%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0	0	0	0%
Utilities	0	0	0	0%
Construction	0	0	0	0%
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0%
Wholesale trade	0	0	0	0%
Retail trade	29	34	5	17%
Transportation and warehousing	<10	<10		
Information and cultural industries	0	0	0	0%
Finance and insurance	0	0	0	0%
Real estate and rental and leasing	0	0	0	0%
Professional, scientific and technical services	0	0	0	0%
Management of companies and enterprises	0	0	0	0%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	<10	<10		
Educational services	44	59	15	35%
Health care and social assistance	36	48	12	35%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0	0	0	0%
Accommodation and food services	0	0	0	0%
Other services (except public administration)	0	0	0	0%
Public administration	87	147	60	68%
Unclassified	<10	<10		
Total	**210**	**305**	**95**	**46%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

Table 6-65 presents the industry supply chain that represents the purchases an industry makes from all other industries in Webequie in 2020. This table displays the value and percentage of in-region purchases and imported purchases for 2020 that are summarized as follows:

- The percentage of in-region purchases across all industries is very low, of the 20 identified industries only 6 made in-region purchases which amounted to under $200,000. This accounts for 1.4% of total purchases in 2020;
- The industry with the highest percentage of in-region purchases is health care and social assistance at 5.7%; and
- Total supply chain purchases amounted to approximately $14.2 million in 2020.

Table 6-65: Industry Supply Chain in Webequie First Nation (2020)

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Manufacturing	$-	0.0%	$2,897,704	100.0%	$2,897,704
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$51,306	2.6%	$1,939,764	97.4%	$1,991,070
Health care and social assistance	$94,531	5.7%	$1,568,659	94.3%	$1,663,191
Educational services	$29,690	2.7%	$1,076,462	97.3%	$1,106,152
Professional, scientific and technical services	$-	0.0%	$977,414	100.0%	$977,414
Information and cultural industries	$-	0.0%	$875,760	100.0%	$875,760
Other services (except public administration)	$-	0.0%	$757,536	100.0%	$757,536
Transportation and warehousing	$13,006	1.8%	$699,786	98.2%	$712,792
Utilities	$-	0.0%	$634,129	100.0%	$634,129
Wholesale trade	$-	0.0%	$543,130	100.0%	$543,130
Public administration	$4,909	1.0%	$502,231	99.0%	$507,140
Real estate and rental and leasing	$-	0.0%	$390,143	100.0%	$390,143
Accommodation and food services	$-	0.0%	$359,338	100.0%	$359,338
Finance and insurance	$-	0.0%	$293,009	100.0%	$293,009
Retail trade	$5,237	2.7%	$191,418	97.3%	$196,654
Construction	$-	0.0%	$150,912	100.0%	$150,912
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$-	0.0%	$43,644	100.0%	$43,644
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$-	0.0%	$42,634	100.0%	$42,634
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0.0%	$19,030	100.0%	$19,030
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$-	0.0%	$11,369	100.0%	$11,369
Total	**$198,679**	**1.4%**	**$13,974,072**	**98.6%**	**$14,172,751**

Source: Lightcast, 2023c.

Table 6-66 presents the regional requirements or needs, the value of the goods and services demanded of Webequie by industry. The table presents the level of demand for each industry met in-region and the demand met by imports that are summarized as follows:

- The majority of demand for goods and services is met by imports (97%);
- The industry meeting the most demand in-region is educational services with 15.7% of demand met in-region; and

- 13 industries do not meet any demand in-region and rely solely on imports.

Table 6-66: Regional Requirements/Needs to Meet Demand by Industry in Webequie (2020)

Industry	Demand met In-region	% Demand met In-region	Demand met by Imports	% Demand met by Imports	Total Demand
Manufacturing	$-	0%	$6,595,918	100%	$6,595,918
Public administration	$46,320	1.0%	$4,756,744	99.0%	$4,803,064
Health care and social assistance	$318,254	7.9%	$3,716,581	92.1%	$4,034,834
Construction	$-	0%	$3,599,594	100%	$3,599,594
Educational services	$279,786	8.7%	$2,921,227	91.3%	$3,201,013
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$72,921	3.5%	$2,039,972	96.5%	$2,112,893
Retail trade	$262,751	15.7%	$1,408,102	84.3%	$1,670,852
Finance and insurance	$-	0%	$1,654,540	100%	$1,654,540
Real estate and rental and leasing	$-	0%	$1,643,565	100%	$1,643,565
Professional, scientific and technical services	$-	0%	$1,544,083	100%	$1,544,083
Information and cultural industries	$-	0%	$1,464,140	100%	$1,464,140
Other services (except public administration)	$-	0%	$1,406,601	100%	$1,406,601
Transportation and warehousing	$77,025	5.9%	$1,233,003	94.1%	$1,310,028
Wholesale trade	$-	0%	$1,267,770	100%	$1,267,770
Accommodation and food services	$-	0%	$957,239	100%	$957,239
Utilities	$-	0%	$906,697	100%	$906,697
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$-	0%	$212,593	100%	$212,593
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$-	0%	$189,625	100%	$189,625
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$-	0%	$120,581	100%	$120,581
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0%	$23,210	100%	$23,210
Total	**$1,057,057**	**3%**	**$37,661,785**	**97%**	**$38,718,840**

Source: Lightcast, 2023d.

6.3.1.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Table 6-67 presents a breakdown of all 21 industries based on 2-digit NAICS[38] codes and their presence within the geographical borders of the other Indigenous communities in the LSA in 2018 and 2022.

The industries with the highest growth between 2018 and 2022 include retail trade (32%), public administration (28%), and health care and social assistance (25%).

Table 6-67: All Industry Presence in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-	-	-	0%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	<10	11		
Utilities	<10	<10		
Construction	36	42	6	17%
Manufacturing	-	-	-	0%
Wholesale trade	-	-	-	0%
Retail trade	67	88	21	32%
Transportation and warehousing	<10	<10		
Information and cultural industries	<10	<10		
Finance and insurance	-	-	-	0%
Real estate and rental and leasing	-	-	-	0%
Professional, scientific and technical services	-	-	-	0%
Management of companies and enterprises	-	-	-	0%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	16	17	-	1%
Educational services	211	208	(3)	(1%)
Health care and social assistance	235	294	59	25%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	-	-	-	0%
Accommodation and food services	36	27	(9)	(24%)
Other services (except public administration)	-	-	-	0%
Public administration	496	635	139	28%
Unclassified	17	18	2	9%
Total	**1,134**	**1,353**	**219**	**19%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This table displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

[38] The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data. The structure of NAICS is hierarchical with five levels, level 1 having 2-digits and level 5 having 6 digits. As the level increases the classification becomes more detailed.

Table 6-68 presents the industry supply chain, the purchases an industry makes from all other industries, in the other Indigenous communities in the LSA for 2020. This table displays the value and percentage of in-region purchases and imported purchases for 2020 that are summarized as follows:

- The percentage of in-region purchases across all industries is low. Of the 20 identified industries, 11 made in-region purchases. This amounted to under $4 million of purchases which represents 3.9% of total purchases in 2020;
- The industry with the highest percentage of in-region purchases is mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction at 21.6%; and
- Total supply chain purchases amounted to approximately $101 million in 2020.

Table 6-68: Industry Supply Chain in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2020)

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Manufacturing	$-	0%	$23,737,943	100%	$23,737,943
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$2,780,179	17.7%	$12,918,235	82.3%	$15,698,413
Health care and social assistance	$100,101	0.9%	$11,569,714	99.1%	$11,669,815
Educational services	$-	0%	$7,248,885	100%	$7,248,885
Professional, scientific and technical services	$268,056	4.1%	$6,233,704	95.9%	$6,501,760
Information and cultural industries	$91,473	1.8%	$5,105,413	98.2%	$5,196,886
Other services (except public administration)	$-	0%	$4,664,150	100%	$4,664,150
Transportation and warehousing	$-	0%	$4,431,697	100%	$4,431,697
Utilities	$45,994	1.1%	$4,129,726	98.9%	$4,175,720
Wholesale trade	$94,618	2.5%	$3,755,592	97.5%	$3,850,210
Public administration	$351,744	10.5%	$2,985,224	89.5%	$3,336,968
Real estate and rental and leasing	$-	0%	$2,382,695	100%	$2,382,695
Accommodation and food services	$31,132	1.6%	$1,964,156	98.4%	$1,995,288
Finance and insurance	$-	0%	$1,942,491	100%	$1,942,491
Retail trade	$70,750	4.0%	$1,683,958	96.0%	$1,754,708
Construction	$10,157	0.9%	$1,128,170	99.1%	$1,138,328
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$123,040	21.6%	$445,803	78.4%	$568,843
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$-	0%	$260,670	100%	$260,670
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0%	$207,149	100%	$207,149
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$-	0%	$202,056	100%	$202,056
Total	**$3,967,244**	**3.9%**	**$96,997,431**	**96.1%**	**$100,964,675**

Source: Lightcast, 2023c.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Table 6-69 displays the regional requirements or needs, the value of goods and services demanded, of the LSA Indigenous communities by industry. The table presents the level of demand for each industry met in-region and the demand met by imports that are summarized as follows:

- The majority of demand for goods and services is met by imports (92.3%);
- The industry meeting the most demand in-region is construction with 39.1% of demand met in-region; and
- 9 industries do not meet any demand in-region and rely solely on imports.

Table 6-69: Regional Requirements to Meet Demand by Industry in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2020)

Industry	Demand met In-region	% Demand met In-region	Demand met by Imports	% Demand met by Imports	Total Demand
Manufacturing	$-	0%	$46,996,318	100%	$46,996,318
Public administration	$4,337,158	14.7%	$25,200,823	85.3%	$29,537,981
Health care and social assistance	$965,084	3.5%	$26,547,507	96.5%	$27,512,592
Construction	$8,374,777	39.1%	$13,033,797	60.9%	$21,408,573
Educational services	$1,887,058	10.4%	$16,249,299	89.6%	$18,136,357
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$137,478	1.1%	$12,121,794	98.9%	$12,259,272
Retail trade	$2,205,870	19.5%	$9,098,268	80.5%	$11,304,138
Finance and insurance	$-	0%	$10,759,405	100%	$10,759,405
Real estate and rental and leasing	$-	0%	$10,505,947	100%	$10,505,947
Professional, scientific and technical services	$-	0%	$10,171,439	100%	$10,171,439
Information and cultural industries	$358,934	3.9%	$8,869,739	96.1%	$9,228,673
Other services (except public administration)	$-	0%	$9,004,521	100%	$9,004,521
Transportation and warehousing	$-	0%	$8,931,178	100%	$8,931,178
Wholesale trade	$152,778	2.3%	$6,569,613	97.7%	$6,722,391
Accommodation and food services	$437,242	7.0%	$5,766,977	93.0%	$6,204,219
Utilities	$391,279	6.8%	$5,404,602	93.2%	$5,795,880
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$168,160	5.1%	$3,159,432	94.9%	$3,327,592
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$-	0%	$1,531,631	100%	$1,531,631
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$-	0%	$1,220,690	100%	$1,220,690
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0%	$225,474	100%	$225,474
Total	**$19,415,817**	**7.7%**	**$231,368,454**	**92.3%**	**$250,784,272**

Source: Lightcast, 2023d.

Note: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

6.3.1.2 Mining, Aggregate and Forestry Activities

The draft Webequie First Nation Community Based Land Use Plan identifies an Area of Interest for Planning (AIP). Aggregate data within Webequie First Nation is limited and the potential for resource use is not well-known. There is a higher economic potential for metals in older rocks, which makes up a majority of the AIP, but younger rocks have lower economic potential for metals. The draft Webequie CBLUP also seeks to determine the potential for various forestry activities and identify desired opportunities and provide complementary zoning as there is limited industry data for mining and forestry exists for Webequie First Nation.

Only 7% of the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas industry purchases are occurring within the LSA Indigenous communities in 2020.

6.3.1.2.1 Webequie First Nation

In 2014, Webequie First Nation and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) signed the Webequie First Nation terms of reference for their CBLUP. The draft CBLUP identified an AIP. The Webequie AIP is 856,000 ha in size, and situated approximately 650 km north of Thunder Bay Ontario. Indigenous communities located adjacent to this AIP include Attawapiskat, Weenusk, Kasabonika Lake, Nibinamik, Neskantaga, Eabametoong, and Marten Falls.

Mining and Aggregate

The majority of the Webequie AIP is underlain by old rocks of the Canadian Shield. In the eastern and northern parts of the area, the old rocks are overlain by flat-lying younger sedimentary rocks. Both the old and young rocks are covered by glacial and recent sediments (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

Aggregate data within Webequie First Nation is limited and little-known potential for resource use is currently available. There is a potential that old volcanic and gabbroic intrusive rocks may host chromite, base metals, platinum and palladium, or gold and silver deposits (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

The areas in Webequie First Nation underlain by old granitic intrusive rocks and old sedimentary rocks have lower economic potential. The younger sedimentary rocks of the eastern portion of Webequie First Nation have lower economic potential for metals than the older volcanic and gabbroic rocks. They may, however, host industrial mineral deposits or be suitable for use as aggregate.

Forestry

Part of the Webequie First Nation draft CBLUP will seek advice to determine the potential for various forestry activities (i.e., defining quality and quantity of resources). Forestry opportunities to be considered may include non-timber forest products (cross- reference with traditional use), firewood, biofuel, local-scale sawmill, value-added production (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

The plan will identify desired opportunities and provide complementary zoning.

Limited industry data for mining and forestry exists for Webequie First Nation in common data sources such as the Canada Census of Population and Lightcast.

6.3.1.2.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

Table 6-70 presents the supply chain for the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry by 3-digit NAICS[39] code for other Indigenous communities in the LSA for 2020. Only 7% of the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas industry purchases are occurring within the LSA Indigenous communities in 2020.

Table 6-70: Industry Supply Chain, Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction in Other LSA Indigenous Communities (2020)

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Machinery manufacturing	$-	0%	$137,402	100%	$137,402
Support activities for mining, and oil and gas extraction	$25,036	19%	$106,354	81%	$131,391
Utilities	$16,626	14%	$100,074	86%	$116,700
Petroleum and coal product manufacturing	$-	0%	$105,680	100%	$105,680
Professional, scientific and technical services	$-	0%	$103,852	100%	$103,852
Chemical manufacturing	$-	0%	$96,351	100%	$96,351
Machinery, equipment and supplies merchant wholesalers	$-	0%	$69,837	100%	$69,837
Primary metal manufacturing	$-	0%	$60,228	100%	$60,228
Credit intermediation and related activities	$-	0%	$51,774	100%	$51,774
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	$-	0%	$50,370	100%	$50,370
Mining and quarrying (except oil and gas)	$44,700	94%	$3,109	7%	$47,809
Administrative and support services	$1,101	3%	$36,517	97%	$37,618
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	$-	0%	$33,447	100%	$33,447
Specialty trade contractors	$-	0%	$31,805	100%	$31,805
Truck transportation	$2,714	9%	$27,296	91%	$30,010
Oil and gas extraction	$-	0%	$29,412	100%	$29,412
Support activities for transportation	$-	0%	$25,434	100%	$25,434
Rental and leasing services	$-	0%	$21,679	100%	$21,679
Repair and maintenance	$-	0%	$21,243	100%	$21,243
Insurance carriers and related activities	$-	0%	$20,820	100%	$20,820
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0%	$20,051	100%	$20,051
Building material and supplies merchant wholesalers	$-	0%	$17,587	100%	$17,587
Electrical equipment, appliance and component manufacturing	$-	0%	$17,267	100%	$17,267
Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing	$-	0%	$16,785	100%	$16,785

[39] The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data. The structure of NAICS is hierarchical with five levels, level 1 having 2-digits and level 5 having 6 digits. As the level increases the classification becomes more detailed.

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Securities, commodity contracts, and other financial investment and related activities	$-	0%	$16,363	100%	$16,363
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	$-	0%	$16,092	100%	$16,092
Miscellaneous merchant wholesalers	$-	0%	$14,235	100%	$14,235
Transportation equipment manufacturing	$-	0%	$11,125	100%	$11,125
Heavy and civil engineering construction	$407	4%	$10,545	96%	$10,952
Rail transportation	$-	0%	$10,732	100%	$10,732
Water transportation	$-	0%	$9,612	100%	$9,612
Petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers	$-	0%	$7,538	100%	$7,538
Telecommunications	$432	6%	$6,550	94%	$6,983
Real estate	$-	0%	$6,873	100%	$6,873
Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories merchant wholesalers	$-	0%	$6,791	100%	$6,791
Food manufacturing	$-	0%	$5,609	100%	$5,609
Personal and household goods merchant wholesalers	$-	0%	$4,456	100%	$4,456
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	$-	0%	$4,430	100%	$4,430
Gasoline stations	$1,798	43%	$2,430	58%	$4,229
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	$-	0%	$4,174	100%	$4,174
Local, municipal and regional public administration	$1,180	29%	$2,951	71%	$4,131
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	$-	0%	$3,988	100%	$3,988
Couriers and messengers	$-	0%	$3,754	100%	$3,754
General merchandise stores	$590	16%	$3,143	84%	$3,732
Pipeline transportation	$-	0%	$3,429	100%	$3,429
Business-to-business electronic markets, and agents and brokers	$-	0%	$3,422	100%	$3,422
Data processing, hosting, and related services	$-	0%	$3,348	100%	$3,348
Waste management and remediation services	$-	0%	$3,334	100%	$3,334
Paper manufacturing	$-	0%	$3,300	100%	$3,300
Air transportation	$350	11%	$2,779	89%	$3,129
Food services and drinking places	$204	7%	$2,915	94%	$3,119
Publishing industries	$529	18%	$2,473	82%	$3,002
Wood product manufacturing	$-	0%	$2,999	100%	$2,999

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Health and personal care stores	$-	0%	$2,791	100%	$2,791
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	$-	0%	$2,536	100%	$2,536
Miscellaneous manufacturing	$-	0%	$2,528	100%	$2,528
Accommodation services	$480	20%	$1,928	80%	$2,408
Provincial and territorial public administration	$2,247	95%	$120	5%	$2,368
Printing and related support activities	$-	0%	$2,242	100%	$2,242
Religious, grant-making, civic, and professional and similar organizations	$-	0%	$2,212	100%	$2,212
Postal service	$-	0%	$2,174	100%	$2,174
Food, beverage and tobacco merchant wholesalers	$-	0%	$1,815	100%	$1,815
Educational services	$1,220	68%	$577	32%	$1,797
Non-store retailers	$-	0%	$1,475	100%	$1,475
Textile product mills	$-	0%	$1,322	100%	$1,322
Funds and other financial vehicles	$-	0%	$1,165	100%	$1,165
Textile mills	$-	0%	$1,155	100%	$1,155
Food and beverage stores	$877	76%	$278	24%	$1,154
Warehousing and storage	$-	0%	$1,083	100%	$1,083
Federal government public administration	$138	13%	$912	87%	$1,050
Farm product merchant wholesalers	$-	0%	$936	100%	$936
Furniture and home furnishings stores	$-	0%	$861	100%	$861
Other information services	$-	0%	$842	100%	$842
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	$-	0%	$805	100%	$805
Personal and laundry services	$-	0%	$749	100%	$749
Electronics and appliance stores	$-	0%	$680	100%	$680
Clothing manufacturing	$-	0%	$650	100%	$650
Transit and ground passenger transportation	$-	0%	$613	100%	$613
Farms	$-	0%	$593	100%	$593
Miscellaneous store retailers	$-	0%	$544	100%	$544
Furniture and related product manufacturing	$-	0%	$414	100%	$414
Lessors of non-financial intangible assets (except copyrighted works)	$-	0%	$347	100%	$347
Amusement, gambling and recreation industries	$-	0%	$295	100%	$295
Hospitals	$197	71%	$80	29%	$276
Ambulatory health care services	$67	32%	$141	68%	$208

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Forestry and logging	$-	0%	$172	100%	$172
Nursing and residential care facilities	$50	36%	$89	64%	$139
Performing arts, spectator sports and related industries	$-	0%	$128	100%	$128
Broadcasting (except internet)	$-	0%	$104	100%	$104
Social assistance	$87	88%	$11	12%	$98
Leather and allied product manufacturing	$-	0%	$93	100%	$93
Heritage institutions	$-	0%	$62	100%	$62
Motion picture and sound recording industries	$9	16%	$49	85%	$58
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	$-	0%	$7	100%	$7
Total	**$101,039**	**7%**	**$1,419,342**	**93%**	**$1,520,382**

Source: Lightcast, 2023b, 2023c.

Notes: All counts in census tabulations undergo random rounding, a process that transforms all raw counts into randomly rounded counts. This reduces the possibility of identifying individuals in the tabulations. This results in breakdown values not always adding up to the total count. This figure displays the sum of data for Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, and Weenusk First Nation.

Limited industry data for mining and forestry exists for LSA Indigenous Communities in common data sources such as the Canada Census of Population and Lightcast.

6.3.2 Regional Study Area

6.3.2.1 Local Economy

The RSA is comprised of three census divisions: Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District. Within these divisions, there are 114 census sub-divisions which include 72 First Nation communities. The Districts are inclusive of the 22 RSA Indigenous communities, the majority of which are located in the Kenora District.

Within the RSA, the Kenora District is the most heavily reliant on imports to meet supply chain needs with 80% of purchases being imported, followed by the Cochrane District (31%) and the Thunder Bay District (40%).

For the Kenora District and Thunder Bay District, the industry providing the largest number of jobs is public administration. In the Cochrane District, the industries driving employment are health care and social assistance.

As of 2022, there are nearly 8,000 jobs in the construction industry within the RSA, 50% of which exist in the Thunder Bay District.

This section describes the local economy of the districts in the RSA (the Kenora District, Thunder Bay District, and Cochrane District), which consists of various sectors including agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, utilities, construction, etc.

Among the three districts:

- Professional, scientific, and technical services and wholesale trade had the highest growth between 2018 and 2022 in the Kenora District and Cochrane District, and second highest in the Thunder Bay District.

- Supply chain purchases made within each district was lower than purchases made outside (i.e., imported purchases) for all three district.
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting had the highest percentage of in-region purchases for the Kenora District and Cochrane district, while health care and social assistance was the highest for the Thunder Bay District
- For all three districts, management of companies and enterprises had the lowest percentage of in-region purchases.
- The Thunder Bay District had the highest total supply chain purchases (approximately $4.9 billion in 2020), while the Kenora District had the lowest (approximately $2.7 billion in 2020).
- For all three districts, the majority of demand for goods and services was met by imports; the percent of demand that was met in-region ranged between 17% and 31%.
- The Thunder Bay District had the highest total demand in 2020 (approximately $13.85 billion), while the Kenora District had the lowest (approximately $7.26 billion).

6.3.2.1.1 Kenora District

TKG Group was established in 2018 and is owned equally by Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin and Wunnumin Lake First Nations. In January 2023, TKG Group acquired Oshtugon Computers Inc. which includes a variety of retail stores in Sioux Lookout and Dryden (TKG Group, 2023).

According to the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, recreation and outdoor activities (which includes outfitters, hunting, fishing, and wilderness guides, as well as various types of recreational and adventure camps, including recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds) are an important domain in the Indigenous tourism sector (Fiser and Hermus, 2019). In the 2018 census survey completed by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, Ontario generated the second highest revenue in direct GDP, among all provinces and territories in Canada, from recreation and outdoor activities (Fiser and Hermus, 2019). Tourism is also important because as it provides an opportunity for visitors to learn about the history, experience, arts, and culture of Indigenous communities.

Table 6-71 presents a breakdown of all 21 industries based on 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)[40] codes and their presence within the geographical boarders of the Kenora District in 2018 and 2022. Trends of industry presence in Kenora District between 2018 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

- The industries with the highest growth between 2018 and 2022 include professional, scientific, and technical services (24%) and wholesale trade (19%); and
- 9 of the 21 industries reported saw a decline in jobs between 2018 and 2022.

Table 6-71: All Industry Presence in Kenora District (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	493	425	(68)	(14%)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	2,136	2,358	222	10%
Utilities	317	257	(60)	(19%)
Construction	1,263	1,465	203	16%
Manufacturing	856	841	(15)	(2%)

[40] The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data. The structure of NAICS is hierarchical with five levels, level 1 having 2-digits and level 5 having 6 digits. As the level increases the classification becomes more detailed.

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Wholesale trade	178	211	34	19%
Retail trade	2,711	3,065	354	13%
Transportation and warehousing	1,159	1,225	66	6%
Information and cultural industries	191	149	(42)	(22%)
Finance and insurance	309	344	34	11%
Real estate and rental and leasing	234	233	(2)	(1%)
Professional, scientific and technical services	362	449	86	24%
Management of companies and enterprises	-	-	-	0%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	603	618	15	2%
Educational services	3,083	3,035	(48)	(2%)
Health care and social assistance	5,739	5,804	65	1%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	159	148	(11)	(7%)
Accommodation and food services	2,392	2,099	(294)	(12%)
Other services (except public administration)	890	912	22	3%
Public administration	6,553	7,691	1,137	17%
Unclassified	533	533	-	(0%)
Total	**30,162**	**31,861**	**1,700**	**6%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

Table 6-72 presents the industry supply chain, the purchases an industry makes from all other industries, in the Kenora District in 2020. This table displays the value and percentage of in-region purchases and imported purchases for 2020 that are summarized as follows:

- One fifth of supply chain purchases are made within the Kenora District;
- The industry with the highest percentage of in-region purchases is agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting at 71%;
- The industry with the lowest percentage of in-region purchases is management of companies and enterprises at 0%; and
- Total supply chain purchases amounted to approximately $2.7 billion in 2020.

Table 6-72: Industry Supply Chain in Kenora District (2020)

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$82,131,318	71%	$34,088,922	29%	$116,220,240
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$35,424,541	32%	$76,226,128	68%	$111,650,669
Utilities	$9,915,523	9%	$95,573,353	91%	$105,488,876
Construction	$16,117,848	28%	$41,884,472	72%	$58,002,319
Manufacturing	$93,763,686	12%	$660,321,136	88%	$754,084,823
Wholesale trade	$6,607,724	5%	$130,808,674	95%	$137,416,398

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Retail trade	$15,016,505	32%	$32,636,106	69%	$47,652,611
Transportation and warehousing	$48,012,938	27%	$133,398,064	74%	$181,411,002
Information and cultural industries	$6,910,886	8%	$77,926,191	92%	$84,837,077
Finance and insurance	$12,429,802	11%	$101,717,452	89%	$114,147,254
Real estate and rental and leasing	$16,538,649	18%	$75,636,547	82%	$92,175,195
Professional, scientific and technical services	$22,789,884	12%	$167,108,687	88%	$189,898,571
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0%	$16,133,056	100%	$16,133,056
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$25,759,590	14%	$164,189,535	86%	$189,949,124
Educational services	$5,793,313	9%	$61,154,772	91%	$66,948,085
Health care and social assistance	$105,874,888	38%	$169,778,168	62%	$275,653,057
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$1,275,636	18%	$5,857,726	82%	$7,133,362
Accommodation and food services	$9,545,225	29%	$23,391,635	71%	$32,936,860
Other services (except public administration)	$13,278,305	18%	$60,078,353	82%	$73,356,658
Public administration	$23,094,364	40%	$34,620,644	60%	$57,715,009
Total	**$550,280,625**	**20%**	**$2,162,529,621**	**80%**	**$2,712,810,246**

Source: Lightcast, 2023c.

Table 6-73 presents the regional requirements, the value of goods and services demanded of the Kenora District by industry in 2020. Regional Requirements show the value of goods/services purchased from an industry (either in or outside the area) in order to meet the needs of the area. The table presents the level of demand for each industry met in-region and the demand met by imports that are summarized as follows:

- The majority of demand for goods and services is met by imports (82.8%);
- The industry meeting the most demand in-region is agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting with 52.6% of demand met in-region;
- Seven industries meet less than 10% of demand within region; and
- The total demand in 2020 was approximately $7.26 billion.

Table 6-73: Regional Requirements to Meet Demand by Industry in Kenora District (2020)

Industry	Demand met In-region	% Demand met In-region	Demand met by Imports	% Demand met by Imports	Total Demand
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$84,483,367	52.6%	$76,021,015	47.4%	$160,504,382
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$39,675,550	4.8%	$781,595,917	95.2%	$821,271,467
Utilities	$21,477,418	14.1%	$131,307,986	85.9%	$152,785,404
Construction	$202,953,204	36.4%	$354,216,245	63.6%	$557,169,449

Industry	Demand met In-region	% Demand met In-region	Demand met by Imports	% Demand met by Imports	Total Demand
Manufacturing	$128,558,292	8.3%	$1,422,504,777	91.7%	$1,551,063,068
Wholesale trade	$15,005,164	6.0%	$236,240,971	94.0%	$251,246,135
Retail trade	$128,500,153	46.3%	$149,214,831	53.7%	$277,714,984
Transportation and warehousing	$76,862,236	25.4%	$225,595,087	74.6%	$302,457,323
Information and cultural industries	$18,912,155	10.8%	$156,511,099	89.2%	$175,423,254
Finance and insurance	$30,550,767	9.5%	$292,256,351	90.5%	$322,807,118
Real estate and rental and leasing	$60,144,985	21.7%	$216,698,840	78.3%	$276,843,825
Professional, scientific and technical services	$30,773,484	11.1%	$247,155,550	88.9%	$277,929,034
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0.0%	$16,682,896	100.0%	$16,682,896
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$28,793,773	13.8%	$179,389,765	86.2%	$208,183,538
Educational services	$42,104,692	12.9%	$284,274,877	87.1%	$326,379,569
Health care and social assistance	$158,376,692	26.5%	$440,397,103	73.5%	$598,773,796
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$5,397,799	17.5%	$25,446,522	82.5%	$30,844,321
Accommodation and food services	$62,664,118	42.3%	$85,508,628	57.7%	$148,172,746
Other services (except public administration)	$60,024,194	33.8%	$117,721,690	66.2%	$177,745,884
Public administration	$52,357,561	8.3%	$574,959,029	91.7%	$627,316,591
Total	**$1,247,615,605**	**17.2%**	**$6,013,699,178**	**82.8%**	**$7,261,314,784**

Source: Lightcast, 2023d.

6.3.2.1.2 Thunder Bay District

Table 6-74 and **Table 6-75** present a breakdown of all 21 industries based on 2-digit NAICS[41] codes and their presence within the geographical boarders of the Thunder Bay District in 2018 and 2020. Trends of industry presence in Thunder Bay District between 2018 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

- The industries with the highest growth between 2018 and 2022 include management of companies and enterprises (93%) and professional, scientific, and technical services (24%); and
- 11 of the 21 reported industries saw a decline in jobs between 2018 and 2022.

[41] The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data. The structure of NAICS is hierarchical with five levels, level 1 having 2-digits and level 5 having 6 digits. As the level increases the classification becomes more detailed.

Table 6-74: All Industry Presence in Thunder Bay District (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	976	866	(111)	(11%)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1,262	1,154	(108)	(9%)
Utilities	750	614	(135)	(18%)
Construction	3,731	3,985	254	7%
Manufacturing	3,111	2,668	(443)	(14%)
Wholesale trade	2,241	2,327	86	4%
Retail trade	7,979	7,819	(160)	(2%)
Transportation and warehousing	2,819	3,042	223	8%
Information and cultural industries	1,050	1,060	10	1%

Table 6-75: All Industry Presence in Thunder Bay District (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Finance and insurance	1,111	1,373	262	24%
Real estate and rental and leasing	645	536	(109)	(17%)
Professional, scientific and technical services	2,460	3,059	599	24%
Management of companies and enterprises	26	50	24	93%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	1,824	1,737	(87)	(5%)
Educational services	5,951	6,380	430	7%
Health care and social assistance	12,160	13,643	1,483	12%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	877	807	(70)	(8%)
Accommodation and food services	5,236	4,885	(351)	(7%)
Other services (except public administration)	2,624	2,513	(111)	(4%)
Public administration	7,529	7,057	(471)	(6%)
Unclassified	1,262	1,236	(25)	(2%)
Total	**65,623**	**66,812**	**1,189**	**2%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

Table 6-76 presents the industry supply chain, the purchases an industry makes from all other industries, in the Thunder Bay District in 2020. This table displays the value and percentage of in-region purchases and imported purchases for 2020 that are summarized as follows:

- 40% of supply chain purchases are made within the Thunder Bay District;
- The industry with the highest percentage of in-region purchases is health care and social assistance at 65%;
- The industry with the lowest percentage of in-region purchases is management of companies and enterprises at 10%; and
- Total supply chain purchases amounted to approximately $4.9 billion in 2020.

Table 6-76: Industry Supply Chain, Thunder Bay District (2020)

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$93,114,000	50%	$94,071,633	50%	$187,185,633
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$50,631,705	36%	$91,009,263	64%	$141,640,968
Utilities	$72,084,469	59%	$51,040,387	42%	$123,124,856
Construction	$71,960,414	56%	$55,990,777	44%	$127,951,191
Manufacturing	$351,712,883	24%	$1,120,676,153	76%	$1,472,389,035
Wholesale trade	$76,614,421	34%	$148,493,450	66%	$225,107,871
Retail trade	$51,631,093	57%	$38,892,765	43%	$90,523,858
Transportation and warehousing	$174,211,101	49%	$179,560,667	51%	$353,771,768
Information and cultural industries	$64,265,908	40%	$94,714,173	60%	$158,980,081
Finance and insurance	$109,248,558	34%	$208,945,849	66%	$318,194,408
Real estate and rental and leasing	$61,954,819	27%	$171,418,438	74%	$233,373,257
Professional, scientific and technical services	$202,755,511	48%	$216,334,457	52%	$419,089,968
Management of companies and enterprises	$3,059,789	10%	$29,156,718	91%	$32,216,506
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$115,501,207	39%	$182,155,406	61%	$297,656,612
Educational services	$19,436,235	51%	$18,525,662	49%	$37,961,897
Health care and social assistance	$259,903,181	65%	$140,446,210	35%	$400,349,391
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$8,807,050	48%	$9,636,453	52%	$18,443,503
Accommodation and food services	$33,382,862	63%	$19,933,855	37%	$53,316,717
Other services (except public administration)	$48,028,324	54%	$40,829,539	46%	$88,857,864
Public administration	$65,872,592	70%	$28,166,832	30%	$94,039,424
Total	**$1,934,176,122**	**40%**	**$2,939,998,687**	**60%**	**$4,874,174,808**

Source: Lightcast, 2023c.

Table 6-77 presents the regional requirements, the value of goods and services demanded of the Thunder Bay District by industry in 2020. Regional Requirements show the value of goods/services purchased from an industry (either in or outside the area) in order to meet the needs of the area. The table presents the level of demand for each industry met in-region and the demand met by imports that are summarized as follows:

- Approximately one third of demand for goods and services is met in-region (30.5%);
- There are 4 industries meeting over 60% of demand within region: Other services (except public administration) (64.6%), accommodation and food services (63.7%), utilities (62.3%), and retail trade (62%);
- Only one industry (management of companies and enterprises) meet less than 10% of demand within region; and
- The total demand in 2020 was approximately $13.85 billion.

Table 6-77: Regional Requirements to Meet Demand by Industry in Thunder Bay District (2020)

Industry	Demand met In-region	% Demand met In-region	Demand met by Imports	% Demand met by Imports	Total Demand
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$111,622,553	36.3%	$195,457,168	63.7%	$307,079,721
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$59,104,766	13.7%	$372,857,234	86.3%	$431,962,000
Utilities	$161,767,052	62.3%	$98,003,780	37.7%	$259,770,831
Construction	$608,082,904	48.1%	$656,293,440	51.9%	$1,264,376,344
Manufacturing	$484,180,690	14.5%	$2,861,946,236	85.5%	$3,346,126,926
Wholesale trade	$151,421,875	26.5%	$420,167,748	73.5%	$571,589,624
Retail trade	$371,294,754	62.0%	$227,444,846	38.0%	$598,739,600
Transportation and warehousing	$245,443,596	37.2%	$414,337,659	62.8%	$659,781,255
Information and cultural industries	$155,048,119	41.7%	$216,432,934	58.3%	$371,481,052
Finance and insurance	$225,496,277	28.9%	$555,164,399	71.1%	$780,660,676
Real estate and rental and leasing	$178,316,198	28.3%	$452,380,953	71.7%	$630,697,150
Professional, scientific and technical services	$246,697,116	37.8%	$405,923,917	62.2%	$652,621,033
Management of companies and enterprises	$3,141,515	9.4%	$30,325,426	90.6%	$33,466,941
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$127,068,485	36.2%	$223,899,325	63.8%	$350,967,810
Educational services	$131,233,920	22.8%	$443,424,499	77.2%	$574,658,419
Health care and social assistance	$391,679,380	36.6%	$678,492,879	63.4%	$1,070,172,259
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$37,043,308	48.6%	$39,110,634	51.4%	$76,153,942
Accommodation and food services	$188,308,593	63.7%	$107,442,492	36.3%	$295,751,086
Other services (except public administration)	$207,511,577	64.6%	$113,703,677	35.4%	$321,215,253
Public administration	$133,175,794	10.7%	$1,116,291,859	89.3%	$1,249,467,653
Total	**$4,217,638,470**	**30.5%**	**$9,629,101,106**	**69.5%**	**$13,846,739,576**

Source: Lightcast, 2023d.

6.3.2.1.3 Cochrane District

Table 6-78 presents a breakdown of all 21 industries based on 2-digit NAICS[42] codes and their presence within the geographical boarders of the Cochrane District. Trends of industry presence in Cochrane District between 2018 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

- The industries with the highest growth between 2018 and 2022 include professional, scientific, and technical services (19%) and finance and insurance (15%);
- 7 of the 21 industries present in the Cochrane District saw a decline between 2018 and 2022;
- Approximately one third of supply chain purchases are made outside of the Cochrane District;
- The industry with the highest percentage of in-region purchases is agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting at 65%;
- The industry with the lowest percentage of in-region purchases is management of companies and enterprises at 0%; and
- Total supply chain purchases amounted to approximately $3.4 billion in 2020.

Table 6-78: All Industry Presence in Cochrane District (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	623	571	(51)	(8%)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	3,513	4,112	599	17%
Utilities	689	639	(50)	(7%)
Construction	2,450	2,502	52	2%
Manufacturing	2,219	1,939	(280)	(13%)
Wholesale trade	898	929	31	3%
Retail trade	4,119	4,469	351	9%
Transportation and warehousing	1,398	1,527	129	9%
Information and cultural industries	382	312	(71)	(18%)
Finance and insurance	671	770	99	15%
Real estate and rental and leasing	358	373	15	4%
Professional, scientific and technical services	871	1,036	164	19%
Management of companies and enterprises	-	-	-	0%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	1,109	1,189	80	7%
Educational services	3,284	2,983	(301)	(9%)
Health care and social assistance	6,279	6,838	559	9%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	291	299	8	3%
Accommodation and food services	2,208	2,125	(83)	(4%)
Other services (except public administration)	1,232	1,230	(2)	(0%)

[42] The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data. The structure of NAICS is hierarchical with five levels, level 1 having 2-digits and level 5 having 6 digits. As the level increases the classification becomes more detailed.

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change
Public administration	3,366	3,696	331	10%
Unclassified	703	704	1	0%
Total	**36,662**	**38,242**	**1,579**	**4%**

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

Table 6-79 presents the industry supply chain, the purchases an industry makes from all other industries, in the Cochrane District in 2020. This table displays the value and percentage of in-region purchases and imported purchases for 2020 that are summarized as follows:

- Approximately one third of supply chain purchases are made within the Cochrane District;
- The industry with the highest percentage of in-region purchases is agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting at 65%; and
- The industry with the lowest percentage of in-region purchases is management of companies and enterprises at 0%.
- Total supply chain purchases amounted to approximately $3.4 billion in 2020.

Table 6-79: Industry Supply Chain in Cochrane District (2020)

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$146,765,012	65%	$80,663,582	36%	$227,428,594
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$86,758,067	33%	$175,132,598	67%	$261,890,665
Utilities	$44,274,947	35%	$81,518,680	65%	$125,793,627
Construction	$34,994,597	39%	$54,948,884	61%	$89,943,481
Manufacturing	$250,745,482	23%	$858,885,758	77%	$1,109,631,240
Wholesale trade	$34,031,258	18%	$160,172,431	83%	$194,203,689
Retail trade	$25,893,667	39%	$41,293,253	62%	$67,186,920
Transportation and warehousing	$77,064,723	29%	$188,529,614	71%	$265,594,337
Information and cultural industries	$24,147,422	29%	$58,416,818	71%	$82,564,240
Finance and insurance	$32,076,363	18%	$146,979,268	82%	$179,055,631
Real estate and rental and leasing	$39,743,570	32%	$86,033,313	68%	$125,776,883
Professional, scientific and technical services	$53,363,282	21%	$201,682,069	79%	$255,045,350
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0%	$29,071,880	100%	$29,071,880
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$54,655,888	32%	$115,109,686	68%	$169,765,574
Educational services	$7,901,494	33%	$16,221,049	67%	$24,122,542
Health care and social assistance	$128,923,451	55%	$104,383,214	45%	$233,306,665
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$2,157,642	25%	$6,579,276	75%	$8,736,918

Industry	In-region Purchases	% In-region Purchases	Imported Purchases	% Imported Purchases	Total Purchases
Accommodation and food services	$13,244,845	46%	$15,320,883	54%	$28,565,729
Other services (except public administration)	$23,114,356	39%	$36,614,944	61%	$59,729,300
Public administration	$30,897,799	61%	$20,174,349	40%	$51,072,148
Total	**$1,110,753,865**	**31%**	**$2,477,731,549**	**69%**	**$3,588,485,413**

Source: Lightcast, 2023c.

Table 6-80 displays the regional requirements, the value of goods and services demanded, of the Cochrane District in 2020. Regional Requirements show the value of goods/services purchased from an industry (either in or outside the area) in order to meet the needs of the area. The table presents the level of demand for each industry met in-region and the demand met by imports that are summarized as follows:

- The majority of demand for goods and services is met by imports (76.5%);
- The industry meeting the most demand in-region is agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting with 52.2% of demand met in-region;
- Three (3) industries meet less than 10% of demand within region; and
- The total demand in 2020 was approximately $9.68 billion.

Table 6-80: Regional Requirements to Meet Demand by Industry in the Cochrane District (2020)

Industry	Demand met In-region	% Demand met In-region	Demand met by Imports	% Demand met by Imports	Total Demand
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$150,857,137	52.2%	$138,325,310	47.8%	$289,182,447
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$91,678,176	6.7%	$1,270,796,111	93.3%	$1,362,474,287
Utilities	$89,461,178	39.7%	$136,164,485	60.3%	$225,625,663
Construction	$356,084,233	49.0%	$369,919,417	51.0%	$726,003,651
Manufacturing	$359,938,420	15.5%	$1,958,972,379	84.5%	$2,318,910,799
Wholesale trade	$71,169,820	19.7%	$289,921,912	80.3%	$361,091,731
Retail trade	$183,994,137	51.0%	$176,640,455	49.0%	$360,634,592
Transportation and warehousing	$110,482,071	26.7%	$303,071,241	73.3%	$413,553,312
Information and cultural industries	$59,135,979	29.8%	$139,000,298	70.2%	$198,136,278
Finance and insurance	$72,596,819	16.3%	$371,750,043	83.7%	$444,346,862
Real estate and rental and leasing	$105,177,528	29.6%	$250,626,346	70.4%	$355,803,874
Professional, scientific and technical services	$68,650,600	18.9%	$294,528,472	81.1%	$363,179,072
Management of companies and enterprises	$-	0.0%	$29,708,072	100.0%	$29,708,072

Industry	Demand met In-region	% Demand met In-region	Demand met by Imports	% Demand met by Imports	Total Demand
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	$62,521,466	32.2%	$131,552,497	67.8%	$194,073,963
Educational services	$57,071,870	17.5%	$268,533,613	82.5%	$325,605,483
Health care and social assistance	$197,180,923	32.2%	$415,272,085	67.8%	$612,453,009
Arts, entertainment and recreation	$8,506,827	21.8%	$30,600,891	78.2%	$39,107,719
Accommodation and food services	$75,772,065	46.9%	$85,846,531	53.1%	$161,618,596
Other services (except public administration)	$87,143,386	45.4%	$104,823,876	54.6%	$191,967,261
Public administration	$67,211,958	9.5%	$643,226,185	90.5%	$710,438,143
Total	**$2,274,634,596**	**23.5%**	**$7,409,280,220**	**76.5%**	**$9,683,914,816**

Source: Lightcast, 2023d.

6.3.2.2 Mining, Aggregate and Forestry Activities

Mining is the largest private sector employer of Indigenous Canadians, accounting for about 6% of the total mining labour force, while Indigenous people account for 5% of the Canadian population. In Ontario, Indigenous employment accounts for 11.2% of total mining jobs (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022).

Mining and mineral exploration has long been one of the primary economic activities in northwestern Ontario. In 2012, a major regional mining boom looked set to occur. There were nine prospective projects with a resource wealth valued at $135.4 billion, potential tax revenues exceeding C$16 billion, and a predicted job creation tally of 23,000 workers. None of these projects have yet to come to fruition, and some remain as active prospects mines.

As of 2022 (Ontario Mining Association, 2022), 13 mineral mines were operating in the Kenora, Cochrane, and Thunder Bay Districts of Ontario, including:

- Bell Creek Mine – Gold (Pan American Silver Corp. – Lake Shore Gold Corp);
- Black Fox Mine – Gold (McEwen Mining Inc.);
- Detour Lake Gold Mine – Gold (Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.);
- Hollinger Mine – Gold (Newmont Corp.);
- Hoyle Pond Mine – Gold (Newmont Corp.);
- Kidd Creek Mine – Base Metals (Glencore PLC);
- Musselwhite Mine – Gold (Newmont Corp.);
- Pure Gold Mine – Gold (PureGold Mining Inc.);
- Rainy River Mine – Gold (New Gold Inc.);
- Red Lake Gold Mines – Gold (Evolution Mining Ltd. – Red Lake Gold Mines);
- Timmins West Mine – Gold (Pan American Silver Corp. – Lake Shore Gold Corp.);
- Williams Mine – Gold (Barrick Gold Corp.); and
- Lac des Iles Mine – Palladium (Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd. – Impala Canada Ltd.).

Mining and mineral exploration has long been one of the primary economics activities in northwestern Ontario. In 2015, the GDP produced directly from the mining industry totalled approximately $6.9 billion for Ontario, if indirect and induced benefits are included, the Ontario GDP produced from mining is approximately $12 billion (Ontario Mining Association, 2022). According to the Ontario Mining Association, mining is the largest private sector employer of Indigenous Peoples in Canada (Ontario Mining Association, 2022).

There are numerous Exploration Agreements in place with various Indigenous communities and groups in northwestern Ontario, several IBAs, MoUs, Socio-Economic agreements, letters of intent, and other types of agreements (Government of Canada, 2023).

Forestry has been one of the primary industries in northern Ontario for more than a century. In some smaller communities, the local economy is based almost exclusively on the production at a mill and the jobs that spin-off from it. **Table 6-81** lists timber mills in Kenora, Thunder Bay and Cochrane Districts.

Table 6-81: Timber Mills in Kenora, Thunder Bay and Cochrane Districts

District	Mill Type	Name	Location	Product (Size)
Kenora	Sawmills	Prendiville Industries Ltd.	Kenora	Lumber (Large)
		E & G Custom Sawing Ltd.	Kenora	Lumber (Medium)
		Oxdrift Tractor Sales Ltd. o/a Skene Lumber	Oxdrift	Lumber (Medium)
		1358807 Ontario Limited o/a Makoose Wood Innovations	Perrault Falls	Lumber (Small)
		EACOM Timber Corporation	Ear Falls	Lumber (Large)
		Resolute Growth Canada	Ignace	Lumber (Large)
	Composite	Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.	Kenora	Laminated Strand Board
Thunder Bay	Sawmills	1037617 Ontario Ltd.	Thunder Bay	Lumber (Small)
		Precision Wood Design Inc.	Murillo	Lumber (Small)
		Resolute Growth Canada Inc.	Thunder Bay	Lumber (Large)
		366956 Ontario Limited o/a Garden Lake Timber	Thunder Bay	Lumber (Medium)
		Longlac Lumber Inc.	Longlac	Lumber (Large)
		Nakina Lumber Inc.	Nakina	Lumber (Large)
	Bioproduct	Sagatay Cogeneration LP	Armstrong	Energy
		Sagatay Wood Pellets LP	Armstrong	Pellets
	Pulp & Paper	Resolute FP Canada Inc.	Thunder Bay	Pulp and Paper
		AV Terrace Bay Inc.	Terrace Bay	Pulp
	Other Mills	Dog Lake Firewood Ltd.	Kaministiqua	Fuelwood
Cochrane	Sawmill	Lecours Lumber Co. Limited	Calstock	Lumber (Large)
		Rayonier A.M. Canada G.P.	Hearst	Lumber (Large)
		Cyprien Lachance o/a Lachance Saw & Planer	Val Cote	Lumber (Small)
		Rayonier A.M. Canada G.P.	Kapuskasing	Lumber (Large)
		Rayonier A.M. Canada G.P.	Cochrane	Lumber (Large)

District	Mill Type	Name	Location	Product (Size)
		John Wm. Tyynela	Matheson	Lumber (Small)
		Little John Enterprises Ltd.	Timmins	Lumber (Large)
		EACOM Timber Corporation	Elk Lake	Lumber (Large)
	Bioproduct	Atlantic Power LP	Hearst	Energy
	Pulp & Paper	Rayonier A.M. Canada G.P.	Kapuskasing	Paper
	Other	Millson Forestry Service Inc.	Timmins	Fuelwood
	Veneer	Rockshield Engineered Wood Products ULC	Cochrane	Veneer

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2019.

Approximately 9,000 Indigenous workers are employed in the forestry sector in Canada, and 70% of Indigenous communities are located within forested areas (Government of Canada, 2016). In Ontario, forestry generates over $18 billion in revenue, and supports approximately 147,000 jobs. Indigenous owned interests are increasing as a share of the industry too – between 2003 and 2013, indigenous interests increased its share of total Canadian forest tenure (forestry licensees) volume from 5% to over 10% (Government of Canada, 2016) while in 2019, ownership was reported around 18% (CBC News, 2019).

Since 2011, the Aboriginal Forestry Initiative has provided more than $10 million in funding to 50 projects across the country in more than 100 Indigenous communities, delivering on-the-ground programming that makes an impact in communities (Government of Canada, 2016).

6.3.2.2.1 Kenora District

Table 6-82 presents industry data for the following 2-digit NAICS[43] industries in Kenora District between 2018 and 2022 (Lightcast, 2023b):

- Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction;
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting;
- Each industry includes a variety of occupations which include but are not limited to:
- Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying;
- Coal mining;
- Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies merchant wholesalers;
- Support activities for forestry; and
- Forest nurseries and gathering of forest product.

It should be noted that activities associated with the traditional economy such as fishing and hunting may not be captured within this data. It is likely that these industries are underreported within Indigenous communities.

Included in this data are location quotients for 2018 and 2022 for each industry. Location quotients are ratios which help to quantify how concentrated a particular industry is in a specified geographic region in comparison to the nation. Location quotients above 1 indicate that an industry is more concentrated than the typical region. Industries with high location quotients are often those that are exporting a lot of goods and services out of the community (Lightcast, 2020):

[43] The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data. The structure of NAICS is hierarchical with five levels, level 1 having 2-digits and level 5 having 6 digits. As the level increases the classification becomes more detailed.

- The mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry grew by 222 jobs between 2018 and 2022;
- The location quotient for the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry indicates that the concentration of jobs within the industry exceeds the national average by more than 6 times in 2022;
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry declined by 68 jobs between 2018 and 2022; and
- The location quotient for the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry indicates that the concentration of jobs within the industry is slightly higher than the national average with 1.37 in 2018 and 1.17 in 2022.

Table 6-82: Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry in Kenora District (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change	2018 Location Quotient	2022 Location Quotient
Mining, Quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	2,136	2,358	222	10%	5.9	6.5
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	493	425	-68	(14%)	1.4	1.2

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

6.3.2.2.2 Thunder Bay District

Table 6-83 presents industry data for the following 2-digit NAICS[44] industries in Thunder Bay District between 2018 and 2022 (Lightcast, 2023b):

- Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.
- Each industry includes a variety of occupations which include but are not limited to:
- Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying;
- Coal mining;
- Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies merchant wholesalers;
- Support activities for forestry; and
- Forest nurseries and gathering of forest product.

It should be noted that activities associated with the traditional economy such as fishing and hunting may not be captured within this data. It is likely that these industries are underreported within Indigenous communities.

Included in this data are location quotients for 2018 and 2022 for each industry. Location quotients are ratios which help to quantify how concentrated a particular industry is in a specified geographic region in comparison to the nation. Location quotients above 1 indicate that an industry is more concentrated than the typical region. Industries with high location quotients are often those that are exporting a lot of goods and services out of the community (Lightcast, 2020):

- The mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry declined by 108 jobs between 2018 and 2022;
- The location quotient for the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry indicates that the concentration of jobs within the industry is above the national average;
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry declined by 40 jobs between 2018 and 2022; and
- The location quotient for the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry indicates that the concentration of jobs within the industry is below the nation average with 0.96 in 2018 and 0.93 in 2022.

[44] The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data.

Table 6-83: Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry in Thunder Bay District (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change	2018 Location Quotient	2022 Location Quotient
Mining, Quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1,262	1,154	-108	(9%)	1.6	1.5
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	651	611	-40	(6%)	1.0	0.9

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

6.3.2.2.3 Cochrane District

Table 6-84 presents industry data for the following 2-digit NAICS[45] industries in Cochrane District between 2018 and 2022 (Lightcast, 2023b):

- Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.
- Each industry includes a variety of occupations which include but are not limited to:
- Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying;
- Coal mining;
- Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies merchant wholesalers;
- Support activities for forestry; and
- Forest nurseries and gathering of forest product.

It should be noted that activities associated with the traditional economy such as fishing and hunting may not be captured within this data. It is likely that these industries are underreported within Indigenous communities.

Included in this data are location quotients for 2018 and 2022 for each industry. Location quotients are ratios which help to quantify how concentrated a particular industry is in a specified geographic region in comparison to the nation. Location quotients above 1 indicate that an industry is more concentrated than the typical region. Industries with a high location quotient are often those that are exporting a lot of goods and services out of the community (Lightcast, 2020):

- The mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry grew by 599 jobs between 2018 and 2022;
- The location quotient for the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry indicates that the concentration of jobs within the industry exceeds the national average by more than 9 times in 2022;
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry declined by 51 jobs between 2018 and 2022; and
- The location quotient for the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry indicates that the concentration of jobs within the industry is slightly higher than the national average with 1.42 in 2018 and 1.31 in 2022.

[45] The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data. The structure of NAICS is hierarchical with five levels, level 1 having 2-digits and level 5 having 6 digits. As the level increases the classification becomes more detailed.

Table 6-84: Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry in Cochrane District (2018 – 2022)

Industry	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2018 – 2022 Change	2018 – 2022 % Change	2018 Location Quotient	2022 Location Quotient
Mining, Quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	3,513	4,112	599	0.2	8	9.4
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	623	571	-51	(8%)	1.4	1.3

Source: Lightcast, 2023b.

6.4 Public and Indigenous Community Finances

Existing conditions of public and Indigenous community finances in the LSA are described in this section using the following indicators:

- Tax base;
- Indigenous community funding/grants;
- Revenues (taxes, transfers, grants, etc.); and
- Public expenditures.

Tax base is not applicable to First Nation communities.

6.4.1 Local Study Area

Within the LSA communities, all but one community (Marten Falls First Nation) disclosed an annual surplus of at least $2.2 million for the year reported. This indicates that the First Nations were able to cover expenses with significant revenue left over.

A significant portion of the revenues of the LSA communities are from government transfers, making the communities reliant on these funds.

The *First Nations Financial Transparency Act* requires each First Nation (to which the Act applies), to publish on its Internet site, or cause to be published on an Internet site, the following documents within 120 days after the end of each financial year (Government of Canada, 2021):

- Its audited consolidated financial statements;
- The Schedule of Remuneration and Expenses;
- The auditor's written report respecting the consolidated financial statements; and
- The auditor's report or the review engagement report, as the case may be, respecting the Schedule of Remuneration and Expenses.

Consolidated Statement of Operations for all First Nation in the LSA was provided to the team, but in the interests of confidentiality is not presented in this report.

6.4.2 Regional Study Area

Within the RSA, there are 114 census subdivisions. Most census subdivisions have independent revenues and expenses unique to their community. The purpose of this section is to establish a baseline of the current financial conditions within each community in order to quantify how the WSR may affect these conditions in the EA/IA. Specifically, the EA/IA will address how the WSR may affect revenues and subsidies for communities.

Due to the distance of the Thunder Bay and Cochrane Districts from Webequie First Nation, it is unlikely that the WSR will have a material impact if any on the financials of the communities. Although Webequie First Nation falls within the Kenora District, it is not likely that the Project will cause any substantial changes to revenues of the communities that do not surround the proposed WSR corridor (i.e., the Township of Ear Falls, the Township of Red Lake, etc.).

To provide a comprehensive picture of finance within the RSA, the financials of all census subdivisions would need to be explored. This data would provide little context to the potential effects of the WSR. It is most likely that the associated financial impacts from the construction of the WSR will be seen within the LSA communities. Therefore, the RSA has been excluded from the Regional Finance section.

7 Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource Use

The people of Webequie as part of the larger Anishinaabe society have a long history of living on the lands and waters within their traditional territories. In the past, prior to European contact and the fur trade, due to the climate and character of the northern environment, fish and game were found in different areas throughout the year and required the people to move and not establish permanent settlements (Driben, 1983). In summertime, camps near lakes and rivers were well-integrated communities with plentiful food, with fishing, as well as hunting and gathering, such as small game animals, birds, wild rice and berries being popular foods (Driben, 1983). Camps can include several clans and contain hundreds of people, the camps were organized to feed large groups. When the weather changed, and winter came, hunting became the main source of food, requiring clans to breakup into smaller hunting parties (Driben, 1983). During these times, the Anishinaabe did not rely to a great extent on trapping, and although the people relied on animals such as rabbit and beaver for items such as clothing and blankets, the demand for furs was relatively low within the Indigenous population (Driben, 1983).

As the fur trade period unfolded, the people of Webequie, and other Nations, adjusted their social organization. Smaller trapping units replaced the larger hunting parties, to enable more ground to be covered quickly (Driben, 1983). During this time, trapping units could return to summertime camps and also travel from post to post in larger groups (Driben, 1983). During the early nineteenth century, the favourable conditions for the fur trade began to diminish. Large game began to disappear in the region and Indigenous people began to rely more on the HBC posts, however, living by the posts meant less income from furs, which created more hardship (Driben, 1983). In the decades that followed, income from the fur trade declined. Hunting, fishing and gathering became more important once again. These years also saw the disruption in the clan connections of the past (Driben, 1983).

This impacted trapping since community members settled in the growing communities where the children were required, and with no trapping income and not enough employment opportunities in the community, welfare rose dramatically (Driben, 1983). Subsequently, the government rushed to address the growing social and economic issues and released what came to be known as the Statement of the Government of Canada on Indian Policy, 1969. The White Paper programs led to a flood of programs intended to increase employment and reduce dependency on welfare programs, however, they were eventually found to increase vulnerability of the community to government cut-backs and did not lead to economic independence (Driben, 1983).

Baseline data for Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource use was collected through available information provided directly by Indigenous communities and data gathered specifically for the Project. Additional data was gathered through a review of internal reports received by SNC-Lavalin and publicly available sources relevant to the project study areas. Indigenous communities utilize land and resources for food, utility, travel, medicinal, cultural, and spiritual purposes. Indigenous communities could potentially experience changes to their traditional land and resource use as a result of the Project. Receipt of Indigenous knowledge and traditional land and resource use information provided by Indigenous communities in the LSA or RSA is limited at this time. However, a few communities are involved in gathering this information, and the Project Team are in discussions with a few other communities so that they can get the work started. At this time, much of the following is based on other resources including land use plans.

The Project Team is waiting for traditional knowledge land and resources studies from communities. The Project Team will add to this section as information becomes available.

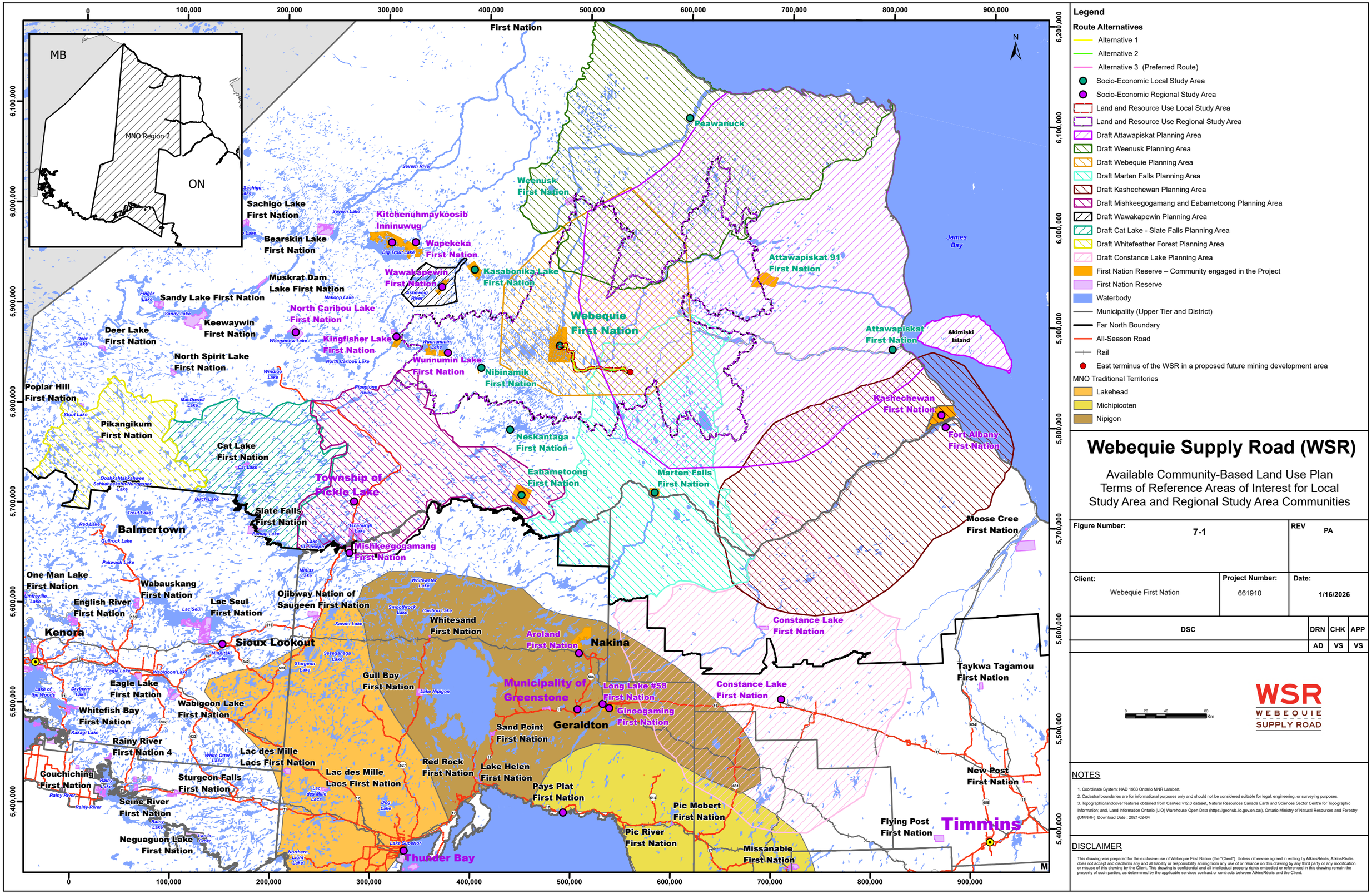
7.1 Sites and Areas Used for Traditional Activities

Indigenous communities in the LSA and RSA customarily use the lands and the resources of their traditional territories for various purposes related to achieving Mino Bimaadziwin (The Good Life). Mino Bimaadziwin is a cultural value that includes spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well being which may be tied to a reciprocal relationship with Aki (the Land). The Anishinaabe way of life includes fishing, trapping, hunting, harvesting and stewardship of Aki while keeping in mind the respectful value of sustainability. The types of practices are well known generally; however, specific sites and areas of use require in-depth information from communities participating in the information gathering. Within the LSA and RSA, there are areas that have been identified as shared territories (land and aquatic area) by Indigenous communities who have the same interest in the territories.

The following sections provide information available, which may be augmented with further participation in the EA/IA process as it develops.

Areas of interest (AIP) shared by some communities that participated in the CBLUP process are provided in **Figure 7-1**.

Note: Indigenous Knowledge and Land and Resource Use studies are ongoing, and information will be included subject to community wishes.



Legend

Route Alternatives

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3 (Preferred Route)
- Socio-Economic Local Study Area
- Socio-Economic Regional Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Local Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Regional Study Area
- Draft Attawapiskat Planning Area
- Draft Weenusk Planning Area
- Draft Webequie Planning Area
- Draft Marten Falls Planning Area
- Draft Kashechewan Planning Area
- Draft Mishkeegogamang and Eabametoong Planning Area
- Draft Wawakapewin Planning Area
- Draft Cat Lake - Slate Falls Planning Area
- Draft Whitefeather Forest Planning Area
- Draft Constance Lake Planning Area
- First Nation Reserve – Community engaged in the Project
- First Nation Reserve
- Waterbody
- Municipality (Upper Tier and District)
- Far North Boundary
- All-Season Road
- Rail
- East terminus of the WSR in a proposed future mining development area

MNO Traditional Territories

- Lakehead
- Michipicoten
- Nipigon

Webequie Supply Road (WSR)

Available Community-Based Land Use Plan
Terms of Reference Areas of Interest for Local
Study Area and Regional Study Area Communities

Figure Number:		REV	PA
7-1			
Client:	**Project Number:**	**Date:**	
Webequie First Nation	661910	1/16/2026	
DSC		**DRN**	**CHK**	**APP**
		AD	VS	VS

0 20 40 80 Km

WSR WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Ontario MNR Lambert.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Download Date : 2021-02-04

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SIZE: 11 X 17

Path: \\Tor01\Projects\E&W\Projects\661910 - Webequie First Nation Supply Rd\40_Execution\45_GIS_Dwgs\MXD\Socioeconomic\661910_WSR_SOC_BL_LandUsePlanningArea_0001_0003.aprx

7.1.1 Local Study Area

The land provides important resources for Indigenous communities, such as food, water and medicine. Indigenous communities obtain these resources through traditional practices, including hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering plants. Identifying sites and areas where traditional activities are practiced will help identify how the Project may affect those areas and affect Indigenous communities' way of life.

This section describes how areas are used by Indigenous communities within the LSA, how these areas are used for traditional practices, and why these areas are important to Indigenous communities, using occurrences of hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering as indicators. Where available, Information on these indicators was augmented through engagement with Indigenous communities, and Indigenous Knowledge provided by communities, as well as CBLUPs and other community planning information.

- A Webequie First Nation Community Well-Being Baseline Study was completed in 2014 (Webequie First Nation, 2014). This study identified the following traditional land use information:
  - Fishing is the most common traditional activity, while trapping was the least common.
  - Most households reported that at least one adult member spent four or more consecutive days on their traditional lands during the past year.
  - Almost half of Webequie First Nation households reported at least one adult member took trips to traditional lands for 14 days or more.
- The Attawapiskat First Nation continue to hunt in their territories from Hudson Bay, to Kapuskau River, and from Winisk River to Akimiski Island.
- Water and fishing are important to their traditional way of life, food security and cultural continuity among the Eabametoong First Nation.
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation has a long tradition of temporary settlements throughout their traditional territory which members use for traditional customs such as trapping, hunting, fishing and gathering.
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation has asserted that they share traditional territory with Webequie First Nation and actively use these shared lands for hunting and fishing.
- Marten Falls First Nation traditional territory was used historically for trapping, hunting, trade and socializing prior to European contact. Currently, members have cabins and camps which they use for harvesting and hunting within their traditional territory.
- Many Neskantaga community members participate in traditional harvesting of wildlife and fish, plants, bark, trees and berries in the surrounding areas.
- The Nibinamik First Nation economy was traditionally based on hunting and trapping. A 2014 study showed that half of the community members in Nibinamik still hunt, trap and fish to provide food for their families as food costs are significant in the area and foods gathered on the land supplements what is bought in stores (Nibinamik, 2014d).
- Weenusk and Webequie First Nations have shared interest over the northern portion of the Webequie First Nation draft CBLUP planning area and includes areas of common interest with Weenusk First Nation peoples due to shared use and traditional travel routes.

7.1.1.1 Webequie First Nation

According to the draft Webequie First Nation Draft Community Based Land Use Plan (CBLUP), the Webequie First Nation Traditional Customary Practice and Use Area extends 40 km to 50 km in radius around the Webequie community providing for traditional and recreational activities (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). Examples of traditional use activities include trapping, fishing, ceremonial activities, gathering/harvesting and hunting a wide variety of wildlife species, including moose, caribou and waterfowl. These species contribute greatly to the diet of the

community members (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). According to Webequie philosophies each species of fish has a particular cultural use and is part of the web livelihood tradition that stems back many generations. The Webequie people use fish for a variety of purposes. For example, burbot fish holds cultural significance as it is used to make rattles for spiritual practices recreation and children's toys and the skin of the northern pike/jackfish is used make bags or containers to store fat or oil for candles (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

Eastwood Island is an important gathering area around Winisk Lake from which harvesting (fishing, hunting, and trapping) and other traditional and spiritual activities are carried out (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). Furbearing animals are not only used for food but also for tools and clothing (e.g., moccasins, mitts, and fur hats) (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). Trees are used for snowshoes, sleighs, buildings, and medicine (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

The Draft CBLUP provides goals and descriptions of land use areas within the proposed Webequie planning area as well as permitted uses/activities. The draft CBLUP has five land use zones that guide land use activities under three land use designations (dedicated protected area, enhanced management area and general use area) (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

Webequie First Nation members sustainably utilize all areas of the land, and the different Zones are important to the Webequie First Nation for traditional use.

The Webequie Draft CBLUP identified traplines located in the Webequie planning area and a number of them are held by Webequie members and shared with the community (see) (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). Not all traplines adjacent to the Webequie Reserve are held by Webequie First Nation members and this is regarded as an historical inequity by the Webequie community, owing to the history of the Treaty making, and the community's inclusion within the Fort Hope Band (Webequie First Nation, 2022).

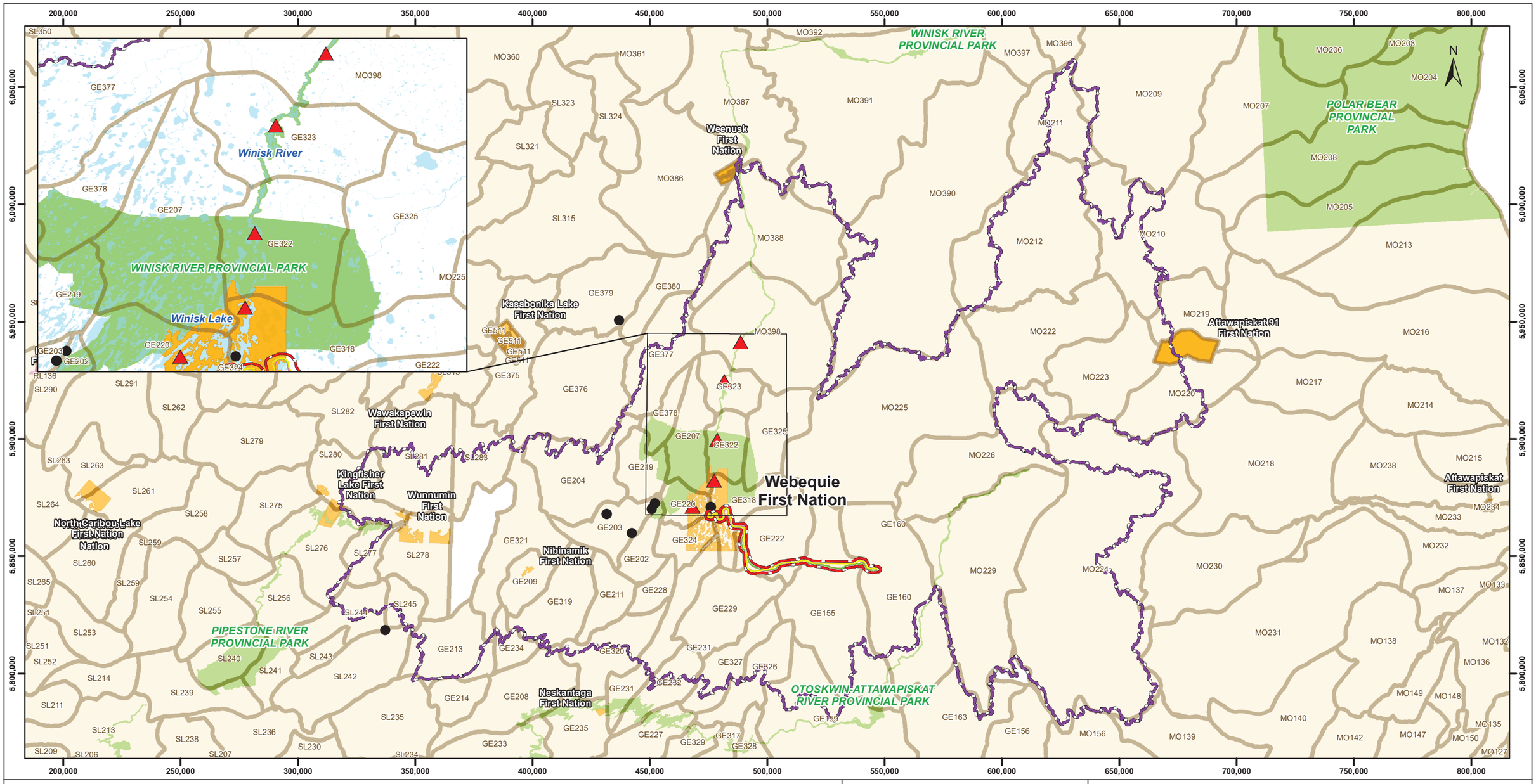
Prior to the 1970's commercial trapping was a primary source of income for the Webequie people (Driben, 1983). Commercial trapping no longer serves as the main source of income for Webequie First Nation; however, the community is committed to maintaining this tradition for both economic and cultural reasons" (Webequie First Nation Elder and MNRF, 2025).

The Webequie First Nation Community Well-Being Baseline Study was completed in 2014 (Webequie First Nation, 2014). It provides baseline data and summarizes the research and community engagement conducted over a five-month period. This included 96 household surveys which represented 66% of the 145 on-reserve private dwellings in Webequie First Nation in 2014. Within the Webequie First Nation Well-Being study, members expressed a strong connection to their traditional land and the important relationship between people and the environment.

The results of the Webequie First Nation Community Well-Being Baseline Study included the importance of drinking water not only for community members but also for harvested wildlife species as community members expressed their "strong connection" and a "vital relationship" the people have with the traditional lands (Webequie First Nation, 2014). The study respondents indicated that 47% report good water quality, 26% as excellent water quality, and 27% as fair to poor. Social connectedness was covered by the amount household members would share or help another household, through sharing food, wood and providing help such as home repair, shovelling and lending equipment. Approximately 60% share wood sometimes or on a regular basis, 70% help others sometimes or on a regular basis and 86% share food sometimes or on a regular basis (Webequie First Nation, 2014).

Figure 7-2 shows the locations of camps or lodges within the LSA and RSA. **Figure 7-3** identifies the participation rates in trapping, hunting, fishing and gathering. Trapping rates are the lowest, with only 40% of households actively trapping. Fishing is very common, with over 80% of Webequie First Nation households participating; and over 30% with 3 or more members fishing (Webequie First Nation, 2014).

SIZE 11x17



Legend

Route Label

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3 (Preferred Route)
- Land and Resource Use Local Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Regional Study Area
- Trapline Area (NDMNRF, 2022)
- Provincial Park
- First Nation Reserve – Engaged in the Project
- First Nation Reserve
- Camp/Lodge (Identified by Webequie First Nation Members)
- Winisk Provincial Park Outposts

WSR WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Download Date : 2021-02-04

DISCLAIMER

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0 60 120 km

Webequie Supply Road (WSR)

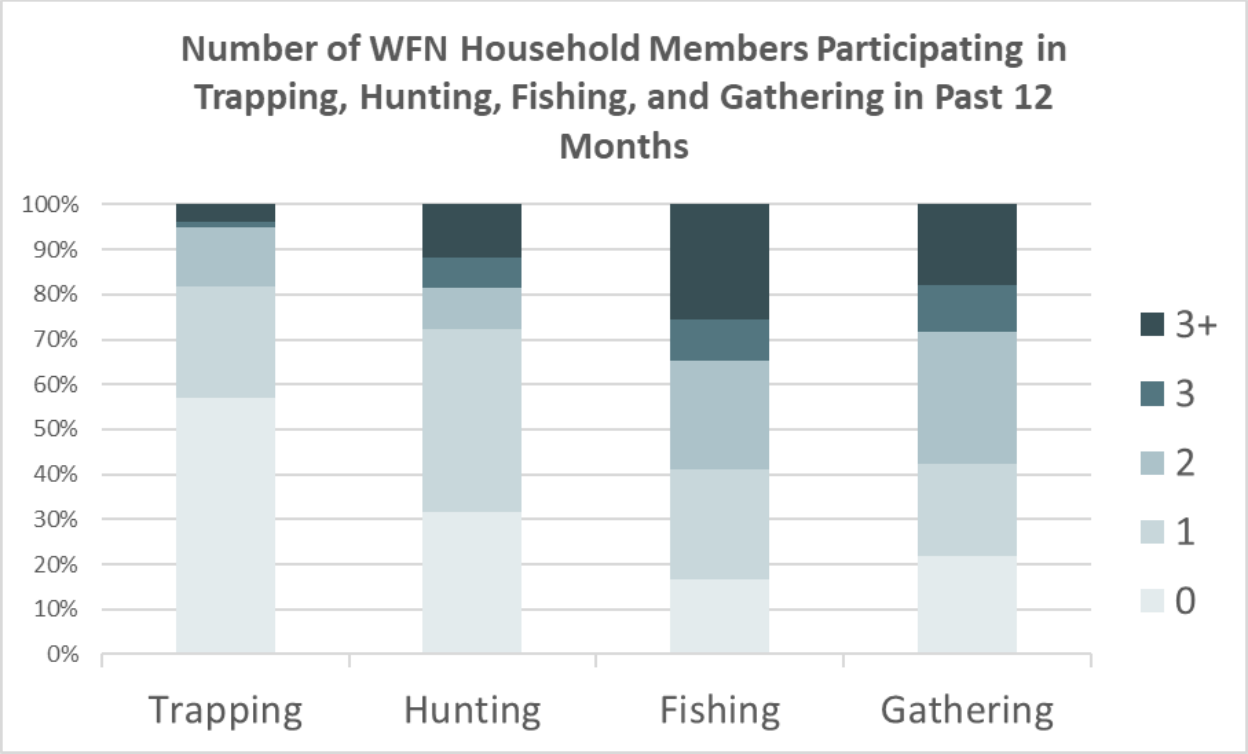
Traplines and Camps/Lodges within the Local Study Area and Regional Study Area

Figure Number:		REV:
7.2		PA
Client:	**Project Number:**	**Date:**
Webequie First Nation	661910	5/16/2025
DSC	**DRN**	**CHK**	**APP**
	AD	AL	SV

SIZE 11 X 17 Service Layer Credits:

Document Path: \\tor01\PROJECTS\E&W\Projects\661910 - Webequie First Nation Supply Rd\40_Execution\45_GIS_Dwgs\MXD\Socioeconomic\661910_WSR_SOC_BL_TraplinesLodges_0001_0003.mxd

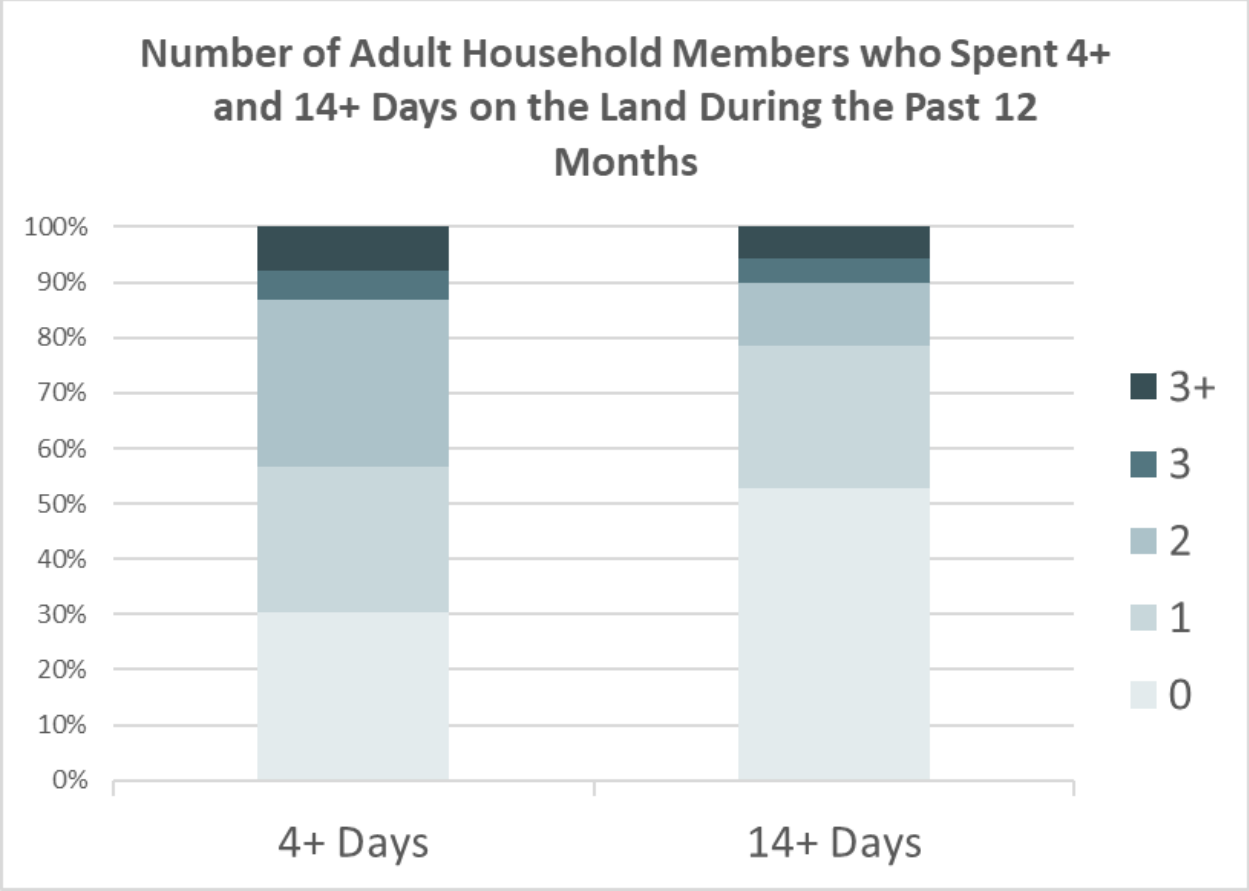
Figure 7-3: Webequie First Nation – Number of Household Members Participating in Trapping, Hunting, Fishing and Gathering in Past 12 months



Source: Webequie First Nation, 2014.

Webequie First Nation participants were asked how many household members spent four or more consecutive days on their traditional lands during the past year, as shown on **Figure 7-4**. Seventy percent of Webequie First Nation households reported that at least one adult member had spent 4+ days on the land in the last year. Additionally, members were asked if these trips of four or more consecutive days totaled 14 or more days. While this number was significantly less, close to 48% of Webequie First Nation households reported at least one adult member participating in these extended trips.

Figure 7-4: Webequie First Nation – Number of Adult Household Members Who Spent 4+ and 14+ Days on the Land During the Past 12 Months



Source: Webequie First Nation, 2014

In an interview with the former Chief and Councillor about the Project, it was expressed that they believe that Webequie First Nation has the right to their traditional territory and to make a living form the resources of their territory. Economic activity, working with industry and government, on First Nation traditional territory can "come up with a plan that will address all parties' needs and make sure that we understand each other, and we continue to work together" (SNC-Lavalin, 2023).

Some Indigenous laws conflict with Euro-Canadian ways of thinking, which when doing reserve creation often leads to difficulty in negotiating and often requires Elder advice to resolve the issues (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). Elders explained that one of the reasons why many First Nations people live in poverty despite Canada being a rich country is because the Crown and the religious institutions made an agreement that went after the First Nations' rights to their land and resources (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). South of Treaty No. 9, some Anishinabek Homelands overlap and are informally shared territories. This was common pre-Treaty and/or before the imposition of the *Indian Act*. The Webequie First Nation CBLUP identifies shared areas with the other First Nation within the identified LSA that are used for traditional purposes.

7.1.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

7.1.1.2.1 Attawapiskat First Nation

Attawapiskat First Nation is located along the Attawapiskat River, 5 km inland from the James Bay coastline. The Attawapiskat First Nation traditional lands extend from Kapiskau River in the south to Hudson Bay in the north, westwards along Hudson Bay towards the Winisk River, and from Akimiski Island in the east to Lake Missisa in the west. Attawapiskat Cree continue to hunt, fish and trap as a means of community sustainability (Attawapiskat, 2015). Their original hunting territories extended from the Hudson Bay area to the north, to the Kapuskau River to the south. The traditional sustainable harvest focused on fish, waterfowl, moose, caribou, rabbit, beaver, bear, and Canada geese (Cummins, 1992). Attawapiskat First Nation community members fish for whitefish, ling, jackfish, trout, coastal sucker, inland sucker, walleyed pike and sturgeon (Honigmann, 1948).

Akimiski Island is the largest island in James Bay and Attawapiskat First Nation is the closest community located 80 km to the west. This area is a traditional hunting and trapping area of the Attawapiskat people and is located on land designated as Crown Land (Tsuji et al., 2019). This was historically used for harvesting, gathering berries and trapping. Attawapiskat First Nation is surrounded by wilderness and waterways teeming with wild food, plants used in traditional medicines and other natural resources that for generations sustained Cree communities and became a central focus of their cultural stories (Smith, J., 2011).

Interviews with Cree Elders held in 2008 for research on Akimiski Island outlined that pre-European arrival, Akimiski Island was highly populated with Cree people and that the island was “Full with game, rabbits, geese, ducks. Fishing was plenty. Beaver was also killed in those days” (Tsuji et al., 2019). Attawapiskat First Nation claims that their traditional territory extends into the WSR Project Area due to the location of the Attawapiskat River. The Attawapiskat community has expressed concerns about potential effects to the “western portion” of its territory (Archaeological Services Inc., 2021).

7.1.1.2.2 Eabametoong First Nation

Eabametoong First Nation, previously known as Fort Hope First Nation, is located on the shores of Eabamet Lake within the Albany River watershed. The Albany River acts as an east-west highway that allows Eabametoong First Nation members to travel and carry on their traditional customs and harvesting by hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering (Teach for Canada, 2017b). The ToR for the Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations’ CBLUP was signed in July 2013 (Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations and MNR, 2019). The ToR is intended to guide the CBLUP which outlines the communities’ values and objectives for land use planning. Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang have identified an Area of Interest for Planning that encompasses an area of 2,487,752 ha. This Area of Interest for Planning (AIP) is defined by Eabametoong First Nation and Mishkeegogamang First Nation.

The water and fishing are important to their traditional way of life, food security and cultural continuity for Eabametoong First Nation (The Firelight Group, 2017). Moose are an important species that the Eabametoong First Nation use for food, clothing, crafts and other cultural purposes. Other animals that they hunt and trap include beaver, marten, mink, grouse duck, wolves, bear and partridge (Stantec, 2017). Eabametoong First Nation identified Kenogamisis Lake area as an important fishing location (Stantec, 2017). Fish species harvested by Eabametoong First Nation include Northern Pikeminnow, pickerel/walleye and whitefish (Stantec, 2017).

7.1.1.2.3 Kasabonika Lake First Nation

Kasabonika Lake First Nation is located approximately 400 km north of Pickle Lake in northwestern Ontario. It is accessible only by air and seasonal winter road. Kasabonika Lake First Nation has a long tradition of temporary seasonal settlements throughout their traditional territory. Generally, these were erected or occupied during the spring when large game was abundant (Sieciechowicz, 1986). Camps were spread out along the lakeshore and represent a diffuse pattern of settlement. Kasabonika Lake First Nation community members continue traditional customs such as

trapping, hunting, fishing and gathering (Sara Mai Chitty, 2016). Moose hunting occurs near the Asheweig River, southeast of the community (Golder, 2018). Historically, Kasabonika Lake First Nation members trap in the area surrounding the lakes of Kasaobonika and Shibongama (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). There is a preference for hunting to the north of the community, but hunting did not occur in in the Bug River-Mishawamakan Rier area. The community has a strong dependence for fishing and fishing occurs heavily in Kasabonika Lake and Shibongama Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Other areas utilized for fishing include Ashweig River, before it enters into Lake Kasabonika, north of Shibongama Lake and northwest of Croal Lake and Fawn River (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Kasabonika Lake First Nation members tend to focus on lakes and rivers to the south and west of Kasaobonika (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

Kasabonika Lake's summer travel route focused on the heavy utilization of the route from the eastern end of Shibogama Lake to Post Island in Big Trout Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The route is not direct along the river, but it is important for Kasabonika Lake First Nation to maintain a connection to this route. Another summer travel route is along the Ashweig River from Shibongama Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Winter travel routes focus on routes leading to the north, south and east of Kasabonika-Shibogama Lakes. Ashweig-Winisk Rivers are important to the Kasabonika Lake residents (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

The Webequie First Nation Draft CBLUP denotes an area, where there is shared use and interest with the Kasabonika Lake First Nation traditional territory. Kasabonika Lake First Nation has asserted that they share traditional territory with Webequie First Nation and actively use these shared lands for hunting and fishing (Archaeological Services Inc., 2021).

7.1.1.2.4 Marten Falls First Nation

In December 2013, Marten Falls First Nation and MNRF jointly approved a Marten Falls First Nation CBLUP Terms of Reference (ToR) to guide the Marten Falls Land use planning process (Marten Falls First Nation and MNR, 2013). The Marten Falls ToR identifies an Area of Interest (AIP) that contains an area of overlap, or shared area, within the Webequie First Nation planning area.

The Marten Falls First Nation traditional territory extends from Little Current River and Ogoki Lake in the south, Makokibaton Lake in the west, Jasper Lake and Muketei Rivers to the north and the Albany Forks to the east (AECOM, 2020). Their traditional territory was used historically for fishing, trapping, hunting, trade and socializing prior to European contact (AECOM, 2020). The Albany River is a key waterway for travel for Marten Falls First Nation members and other communities. Marten Falls First Nation members have cabins and camps which they use for harvesting and hunting within their traditional territory.

Pym Island, located southeast of the eastern terminus of the WSR has historically been utilized for traditional purposes including but not limited to goose and moose hunting.

The Webequie First Nation Draft CBLUP identifies an area as Zone 3, which depicts a shared area with Marten Falls and Webequie with a land mass of approximately 481,290 ha, which includes common interest by Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

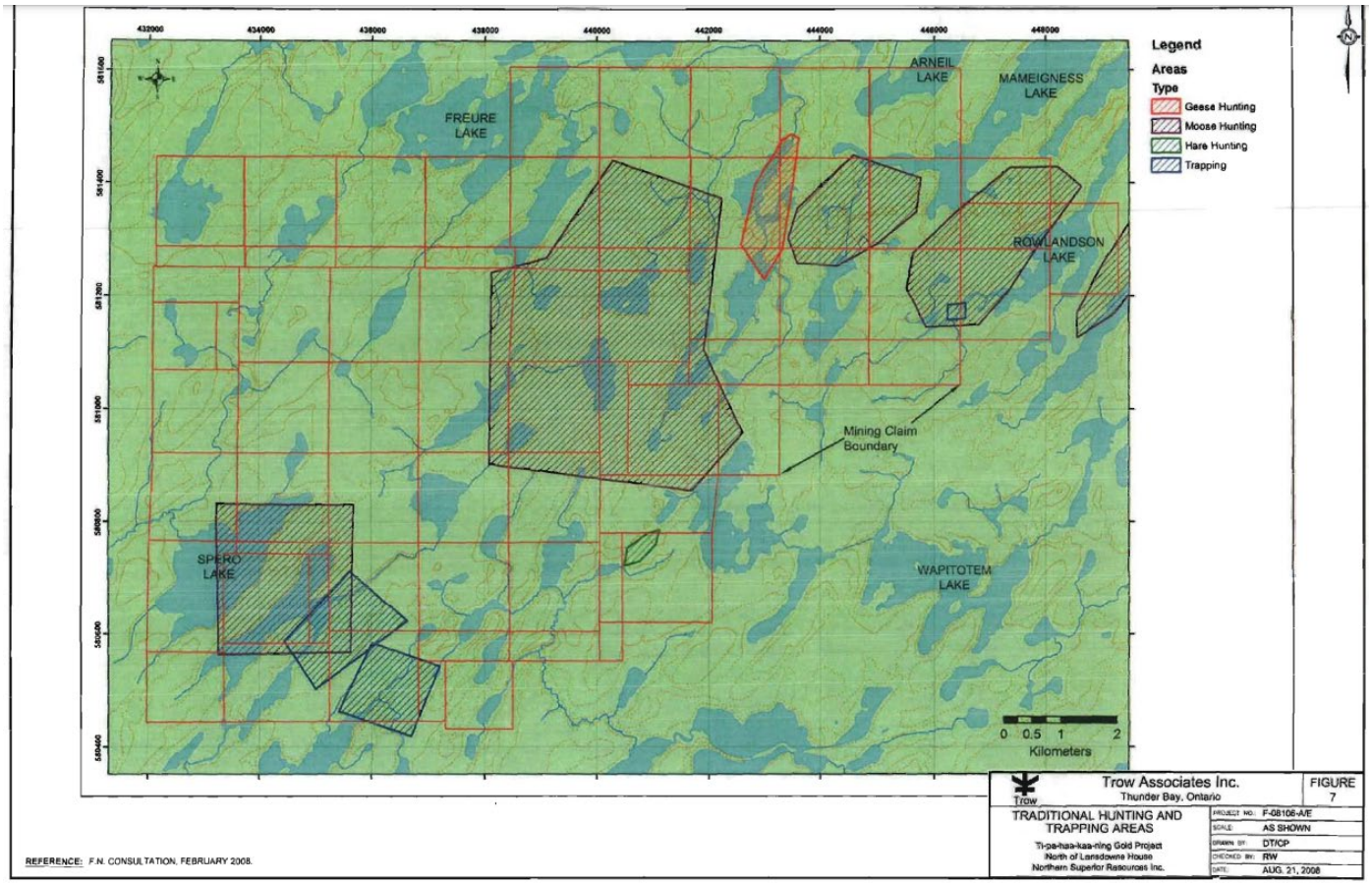
7.1.1.2.5 Neskantaga First Nation

The Attawapiskat and Otoskwin rivers surrounding the Neskantaga First Nation were once part of a major trade route. Many Neskantaga community members participate in traditional harvesting of wildlife and fish, plants, bark, trees and berries in the surrounding areas (Neskantaga, 2023).

Neskantanga First Nation Elders have identified an area south of Mameigwess Lake on a ridge between two unnamed water bodies, as a winter and a summer travel route that extends the length of these two unnamed water bodies (White Spruce, 2008). Copper Point, located on the west side of Rowlandson Lake, on a large peninsula, was historically used for camps and historical mining activity (White Spruce, 2008). Hunting for moose, waterfowl and

snowshoe hare, and fishing activities occur within areas identified by the Neskantanga Elders in a 2008 consultation for a proposed diamond drilling exploration program as shown on **Figure 7-5** (Trow Associates Inc., 2008). This 2008 consultation focused on specific areas where the diamond drilling was proposed and is located 30 km northeast of Neskantaga.

Figure 7-5: An Example of Traditional Hunting and Trapping Areas of Nesktanga First Nation



Source: Trow Associates Inc., 2008.

According to the Webequie First Nation Draft CBLUP, Neskantaga First Nation and Webequie First Nation share a common history of movement and Webequie First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation have overlapping land claims. Webequie First Nation has ongoing consultation with Neskantaga and Marten Falls regarding the southern portion of the planning area identified within the Webequie First Nation Draft CBLUP (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025)..

7.1.1.2.6 Nibinamik First Nation

Nibinamik First Nation has outlined how important the land is to their members and how it is tied to their culture and tradition and as a place of healing. Community members hunt, fish, trap and gather traditional medicines on the land. The Nibinamik First Nation economy was traditionally based on hunting and trapping. Beaver, caribou, musquash, lynx, rabbit and fish were wildlife that they relied on for food, clothing and trading (Nibinamik, 2014). Canoes made out of birch tree bark was one of the main forms of transportation. Traditional food like sap from trees, carrots harvested along the shore and edible grass were harvested. During the mid 1900s, there were 10 trap lines in the Nibinamik area (Nibinamik, 2014). A 2014 study showed that half of the community members in Nibinamik still hunt, trap and fish to provide food for their families as food costs are significant in the area and foods gathered on the land supplements what

is bought in stores (Nibinamik, 2014). Wildlife such as rabbit, moose, geese, partridge, beaver and fish are among their traditional foods.

An annual youth wilderness retreat led by local Elders is usually held in July to teach youth about traditional practices. The retreat is held at the traditional O-ma-day-na-moh-win-nik (Breathing Grounds) site, which is a 25-minute boat ride from the community (Nibinamik, 2014).

The Webequie First Nation CBLUP identifies shared areas with the Nibinamik First Nation that are used for traditional purposes (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

7.1.1.2.7 Weenusk First Nation

The mouth of the Weenusk River was a traditional gathering place in the spring and summer. In the 1970s, the village of Weenusk was a meeting place for families rather than a permanent settlement. Due to seasonal floods, the community was moved inland to Peawanuck in 1986, which is approximately 30 km from the mouth of the Weenusk River at Hudson Bay (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). Weenusk First Nation people hunt wild game like snow geese, Canadian geese, caribou, moose, polar bears, black bears and different varieties of fish within their community. (Lemelin et al, 2010). Moose are commonly hunted in the fall; geese are commonly hunted along the mouth of the Weenusk River in the spring after ice break up; fishing and ice fishing are commonly exercised during the summer and winter, respectively; and caribou are harvested year-round (MNP LLP, 2023).

Trapping was historically practiced, and Weenusk and Webequie First Nations have a shared interest over the northern portion of the Webequie First Nation Draft CBLUP planning area. This includes areas of common interest with Weenusk First Nation people due to shared use and traditional travel routes. Weenusk First Nation has stated that they have overlapping traditional territory in and around the Winisk River downstream (north) of Webequie First Nation Reserve lands (Archaeological Services Inc., 2021). The Winisk River system is the primary water source in many Weenusk traditional areas, including fish, wildlife, and vegetation (MNP LLP, 2023). Harvesting activities, including hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering plants, medicines, and berries, is practiced throughout Weenusk traditional areas (MNP LLP, 2023).

7.1.2 Regional Study Area

Indigenous communities in the RSA have similar traditional land uses to Indigenous communities in the LSA. Important areas for traditional practices include lakes and rivers for fishing, and trapping corridors and trails for hunting and trapping. Many Indigenous communities rely on traditional practices, such as fishing and hunting as a source of food and income. As such, it is important to identify areas where traditional practices are used, to determine potential effects of the Project on Indigenous communities and their traditional use of lands and resources. This section describes the different traditional uses of the land and resources by Indigenous communities in the RSA and the locations where these traditional activities are used.

Sites and Areas Used for Traditional Activities by Indigenous communities within the RSA have been identified from the Project engagement and consultation and review of the literature. A summary of the background information is provided in **Table 7-1**.

Table 7-1: Traditional Harvesting by Indigenous Communities Within the RSA

Community	Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource Use
Aroland First Nation	Aroland First Nation recognizes the following as culturally significant in their traditional harvest: moose; pickerel/walleye; whitefish; sucker; sturgeon; trout; dace; minnows, wild rice; weekah; raspberries; blueberries (Stantec, 2017). Sites used for traditional activities include the following: Potato Island; Blueberry Hill; Moose River; Ozhiski Lake; Pym Island; Attawapiskat River; Albany River; Winisk River; McFauld's Lake; and Muketei River (LeBlanc, 2014).
Constance Lake First Nation	Traditional harvesting for Constance Lake First Nation includes northern pike, trout, whitefish, pickerel, perch, moose, rabbit, beaver, muskrat, mink, marten, and lynx (Stantec, 2017). Families continue to maintain yearly goose harvest, beaver trapping, deer and moose hunting, fishing of pike and pickerel, and making tea and medicines from the trees (Daigle, 2005). The abundance of creeks, rivers, and lakes, and large stands of poplar, birch, white and black spruce, jack pine, cedar, and tamarack are part of a historical connection to the land and play a vital role in the daily lives of community members (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021a).
Fort Albany First Nation	The traditional economy provides the following: meat; fuelwood; berries; income from fur; building materials for bush camps; medicinal plants; raw materials for handcrafts and bush equipment; and social well-being and cultural value through procurement of items (Berkes et al., 1994).
Ginoogaming First Nation	Ginoogaming First Nation identified the following as culturally significant in their traditional harvest: cedar, red willow, bear root, bulrush, sweetgrass, juniper, and cranberries, pike, perch, trout, and walleye, moose, rabbit, martin, geese, grouse, and duck (Stantec, 2017). Kenogagmisis Lake is an area that Ginoogaming First Nation hunt and fish at (Beringia Community Planning Inc., 2015).
Kashechewan First Nation	Kashechewan First Nation have identified traditional harvesting areas that include the adjacent islands and the waters of western James Bay, including areas that are within the jurisdiction of Nunavut (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021b). Kashechewan First Nation members engage in the traditional activities of hunting, fishing and trapping. Hunting focuses on moose, caribou and waterfowl (Victor Diamond Project, 2004).
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation trapping and hunting areas encompasses a significant area including: Manitoba on the west side, to Attawapiskat on the east side. Lands within the Fort Severn homeland are used for trapping and to the south Weagomow, North Spirit Lake and Lansdowne House lands are also utilized (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Traditionally, hunting in the areas north of the community was more popular. The areas around the Sachigo River and parts of the Fawn and Severn River are areas that are important to caribou hunting (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Members typically fish in Big Trout Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation has passed a Watershed Declaration and proclaimed that “all water that flows into and out of Big Trout Lake and all lands whose waters flow into the lake, rivers and wetlands, to be completely protected through our continued care under Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug’s authority, laws and protocols” (CPAWS Wildlands League, 2013). The Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation’s watershed declaration protects Fawn River and Big Trout Lake which includes caribou, wolverine, moose and a variety of fish and birds (Talaga, 2019).
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	Kingfisher Lake First Nation identified the following species that are harvested: ducks, geese, moose, caribou, and sturgeon (Golder, 2018). Kingfisher Lake and Wunnummin Lake had very close integration of territorial use between Maria Lake and Wunnummin Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The hunting territory has historically been larger in area than the trapping area (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Areas south of Maria Lake and the west and south of Big Beaver House were traditionally heavily utilized for hunting (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The larger lakes in the Kingfisher Lake Area were historically used for both domestic and commercial fishing. The smaller lakes, crakes and rivers were solely fished for domestic use (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Sturgeon were historically fished commercially within the Ashweig and Pipestone Rivers; this stopped in 1948 when the threat of extinction was high.

Community	Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource Use
Long Lake #58 First Nation	Long Lake #58 First Nation identified the following plants and species as culturally significant in their traditional harvest: cedar, sage, raspberries, sweetgrass, mountain ash, white willow, red willow, yarrow, birch, and balsam fir. Medicinal plants are often gathered along the shoreline of Kenogamisis Lake and the surrounding waterbodies including Nakina and MacLeod Lakes (Stantec, 2017). Mammals, including moose and birds are hunted along the shores of Long Lake, Kenogamisis Lake and Kenogamisis River (Stantec, 2017). Medicine gathering locations occur east of Kenogamisis Lake south of Highway 11, in and around the Long Lake community, and west of Michael Power Boulevard (Stantec, 2017).
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	The traditional territory of Mishkeegogamang First Nation is made up of the communities of the Main Reserve, Bottle Hill, Poplar Heights, Sandy Road, Doghole Bay, Rat Rapids, Cedar Rapids, Ten Houses, Eric Lake, Ace Lake, Metcalfe, Pashkokogan, Mile 50, Fitchie Lake, Mile 42, Mile 29, Menako, and the shores of Lake St. Joseph. (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010a). In 2010, Mishkeegogamang First Nation had 39 trap lines located around the Reserve in all directions, east down the Albany, the west end of Lake St. Joseph where it meets the Root River, north of the Otoskwin River to Williams Lake and south to Savant Lake (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010b). Beaver, mink, otter, lynx and muskrat are typically trapped by Mishkeegogamang First Nation (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010b).
Métis Nation of Ontario	Some key groups of harvested species important to many Métis communities in Ontario, include ferns, berries (blueberries and raspberries), herbs, chanterelle, and shaggy mane mushrooms, chaga mushrooms and trees. These have multiple uses, including food, medicinal, ceremonial and construction purposes. Fish species included bass, burbot (ling cod), northern pike (jackfish), yellow perch (perch), walleye (pickerel), rainbow smelt (smelt), sucker, trout, lake whitefish (whitefish), salmon, lake sturgeon and other non-commercial fish (Stantec, 2017). Fishing areas of importance that Métis Nation of Ontario have previously outlined include Kenogamisis Lake, Goldfield Lake, Magnet Creek, and Moser Lake (Stantec, 2017). Métis Nation of Ontario have outlined that Long Lake used to be a Métis travel site and area for traditional harvesting and fur trading (Know History Inc., 2016).
North Caribou Lake First Nation	North Caribou Lake First Nation identified the following species that are harvested: moose, beaver, marten, sturgeon, pike, bass and walleye (Golder, 2018).
Wapekeka First Nation	Wapekeka First Nation heavily utilize the land around Big Trout Lake with a strong reliance on the Fawn River system. Hunting occurs throughout the Wapekeka First Nation community with multiple community members hunting the entire year. Moose, caribou, beaver and marten have been identified as being species that are hunted (Wataynikaneyap Project, 2018). Trapping corridors and trails are used to access hunting areas. Some community members fly to the Asheweig River to hunt (Wataynikaneyap Project, 2018). Trapping occurs mostly to the north as Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug traplines are to the south. Fishing in the Asheweig River system for walleye, sturgeon, whitefish, pike is common (Wataynikaneyap Project, 2018). Areas along Big Trout Lake, Long Dog, Fawn River and Bug River and Mishwamakan River are also important areas for fishing and trapping. During the fall caribou hunt, families would meet at the confluence of the Sachigo and Severn Rivers (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).
Wawakapewin First Nation	Wawakapewin First Nation members continue to hunt, fish and trap as a means of community sustainability (Smith, 2011). Wawakawepin is a small and relatively new community, although the area of Long Dog Lake has been used traditionally by the First Nations of the area for generations. Previous studies indicate close historical ties with surrounding First Nation communities, including Wapekeka, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Kasabonika Lake, Kingfisher Lake, and Wunnumin First Nations Wawakapewin First Nation households historically travelled to these communities for the summer for work, fishing, and family and friend connections, returning in time for trapping and hunting in the area. Trapping and Hunting occurs primarily in the Long Dog Lake and surrounding area, to the north around the Otter River and Bug-Mishwamakan River, as well as the area between the Frog and Otter Rivers (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Community members typically utilize Big Trout Lake or Bug-Mishwamakan River, and Long Dog Lake (less often) for fishing (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

Community	Traditional Indigenous Land and Resource Use
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	At Wunnummin Lake, trapping, hunting, and fishing are important sources of food and cash as well as familial and individual prestige (Sieciechowicz, 1986). The Pipestone River has been identified as a common hunting area for hunting of moose and geese and fishing (Wataynikaneyap Power, 2018). The Ashweig River, Pipestone River and Big Trout Lake are also highly utilized for fishing. The area around Wunnummin Lake, including the areas extending from Big Beaver House on the west to Long Dog Lake in the north down to Reeb Lake on the east side and to Wallington Lake) are important hunting grounds (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). There are areas around Wunnummin Lake which have had forest fires in the past and moose are often drawn to these areas making hunting activity higher in these areas (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

7.2 Culturally and Spiritually Important Sites and Areas

There are culturally and spiritually important sites (e.g., travel routes, burial sites, gathering sites) within the traditional territories of the Indigenous communities. Cultural activities and practices may occur within a specific location or be independent of a specific location. Cultural practices like traditional crafting, gatherings, teachings, ceremonies and traditional food harvesting do not always occur at a specific location, although some cultural activities and events such the as community feasts and pow-wows, may be associated with specific sites. The social and cultural value of these events is significant to Indigenous communities.

Water as Life is a recurrent theme for many Indigenous communities. Water as a sacred element has deep spiritual and cultural significance. Water connects all Life, whether it's through consumption, honoured in ceremony or used as transportation. These activities are integral to communities as they relate directly to identity, cultural reclamation and the transference of knowledge.

Note: Indigenous Knowledge and Land and Resource Use studies are ongoing, and information will be included subject to community wishes.

7.2.1 Local Study Area

Many Indigenous communities within the LSA have identified many culturally and spiritually important sites and areas in their CBLUP or ToRs, which outlines the locations and history of these areas, and the cultural and spiritual importance to the community. Although some of these areas may not currently be used for traditional practices, the sites may still hold cultural and historic importance to the Indigenous communities.

This section describes culturally and spiritually important areas in each Indigenous community within the LSA, using the occurrence of travel routes, burial sites, and gathering sites within the traditional land as indicators. Information was obtained through Indigenous consultation and Indigenous Knowledge, CBLUPs, and other publicly available sources. These indicators will help identify the effects on Indigenous teaching and spiritual practices, including loss of sites of importance, and the effects on cultural, spiritual and sacred sites from non-community members accessing the area.

7.2.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Webequie First Nation has culturally significant and sensitive sites throughout their traditional land. Webequie First Nation Draft CBLUP notes that water is seen as the most precious element of their livelihood. Areas where rivers or waterbodies are present are seen as highly spiritually important areas to which the Webequie community believes they have been endowed with the responsibility to protect. These areas include the Winisk Lake and surrounding tertiary

watersheds and a series of maze-like channels connected to the Hudson Bay Coast, located to the south-east of the project footprint (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). The location of the present-day community on the north end of Eastwood Island was originally a summer gathering site for family groups that occupied and utilized a broad surrounding area throughout the year. Elders speak of scattered graves around the community dating back to the 1800s (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). Eastwood Island is another important gathering area around Winisk Lake from which harvesting (fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering), and other traditional and spiritual activities have been and continue to be carried out (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

The Webequie First Nation CBLUP outlines general information about cultural and historic areas within specific zones

The 2019 Webequie On-Reserve Land Use Plan provides information and guidance for community land use and development projects (Webequie First Nation, 2019). **Section 4.2** identifies a number of "Known Culturally Sensitive Areas" within the boundary of the Webequie First Nation Reserve. The On-Reserve Plan identifies important cultural areas as:

1. Sites identified as important traditional use, historic, or cultural significant areas through pre-planning input from members, families, and Elders;
2. Registered and/or known archaeological sites;
3. Sites identified during pre-development site investigations; and
4. Sites discovered during site construction.

Feasts, gatherings and pow-wows are held within the Webequie community and there are three sweat-lodges in the Webequie community (Webequie First Nation, 2023).

In an interview with the former Chief and a Councillor, they indicated that the Webequie First Nation has a Creator's Earth Law which refers to respecting and developing a harmonious connection with everything (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). The Creator's Earth Law contains three principles:

- The relationship with your Creator;
- The relationship with the land and animals; and
- The relationship to the people around you.

The Elders describe the Ring of Fire as "the lungs of the earth" similar to the Amazon, meaning that it holds an important spiritual value and disturbing this area without stewardship input and knowledge will cause it to become unstable (SNC-Lavalin, 2022).

7.2.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

7.2.1.2.1 Attawapiskat First Nation

The Attawapiskat River traditionally provided Attawapiskat First Nation with transportation routes, water sources, temporary camp sites and fishing and hunting locations (Cummins, 1992). Akimiski Island, which is now part of Nunavut, is an important historic place to the Attawapiskat First Nation People that was historically used for harvesting, gathering berries and trapping (Kataquapit, ND). Akimiski Island is also important for social and cultural reasons and contains graves, spiritual sites and Cree seasonal camps (Tsuji et al., 2019).

The Victor Diamond Mine was seeking approval to dispose of mine demolition waste which is being decommissioned and the proposed location within their traditional territory "is a place of critical cultural, spiritual and subsistence importance to the Attawapiskat Cree people" (Jamamie, 2021).

7.2.1.2.2 Eabametoong First Nation

The Eabamet Narrows – between Eabamet Lake and the Albany River – is a culturally important place because Eabametoong First Nation's name is derived from where the reversing of the water naturally occurs during the Spring River break up. Eabamet Lake has been occupied by Eabametoong First Nation people for generations, predating colonial contact and the fur trade. The lake is also an important cultural and historical site to the Eabametoong First Nation (The Firelight Group, 2017).

7.2.1.2.3 Kasabonika Lake First Nation

Kasabonika's Old Settlement has some existing structures which have cultural value including a cemetery (Sara Mai Chitty, 2016). Kasabonika Lake First Nation members have noted that most burial grounds are unmarked and are located along the shores of waterways (Golder, 2018).

7.2.1.2.4 Marten Falls First Nation

Marten Falls First Nation hosts a cultural week break for school children in April. Children are taught skills such as trapping, skinning a beaver, setting up rabbit snares and creating dream catchers (Teach for Canada, 2017a). A youth retreat is held each July where traditional activities and way of life are practiced with young people. These activities are important to the health and well-being of individuals and communities having cultural and spiritual significance. Cultural activities may also interact closely with traditional harvesting including large animal hunting and fishing events (Teach for Canada, 2017a).

According to the Marten Falls First Nation people, the likelihood of burial sites, ceremonial features, sacred sites and important landscape features in the WSR Project area is high. There is a sacred site known to be located to the southwest of the Eagles Nest mine esker camp. There are also a number of known burial and birth locations identified within the project area. The locations of these burial and birth locations are currently unknown.

7.2.1.2.5 Neskantaga First Nation

Locations along the Attawapiskat River have cultural importance to the Neskantaga First Nation. A river crossing which Canada Chrome Corporation identified as a location for a potential bridge, was identified as a crucial gathering place and site of an old village and is of high archeological potential according to the Neskantaga people (Bell, 2015). The site is located along a long stretch of rapids on the Attawapiskat River, on a natural ridge of bedrock.

Neskantanga First Nation Elders have identified an area south of Mameigwess Lake on a ridge between two unnamed water bodies, as a winter and a summer travel route that extends the length of these two unnamed water bodies (White Spruce, 2008). Copper Point, located on the west side of Rowlandson Lake, on a large peninsula, was historically used for camps and historical mining activity (White Spruce, 2008; Northern Superior Resources, 2017)

A historically occupied hamlet site, Shay-kaah-chii-wii-nange, located along the Attawapiskat River about halfway between Pym Island and the historic Beteau Lake settlement has been identified to be in close proximity to the Ring of Fire mineral development area (Hamilton, 2015).

7.2.1.2.6 Nibinamik First Nation

Before Treaty No. 9, the Nibinamik people lived in four separate villages – Mameigwess Lake, Eyes Lake, Wigwashnis Lake and Old Summer Beaver (now Nibinamik), which is located 8 km north of the community's current site. People no longer live in these villages, but they still conduct traditional ceremonies within the old village sites (Nibinamik, 2014). Traditional traplines are important as ancestors were buried when families traveled and lived on the land during different seasons (Nibinamik, 2014).

7.2.1.2.7 Weenusk First Nation

Weenusk First Nation recently applied to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to replace the existing pow-wow grounds with a new facility which will allow Weenusk First Nation to host pow-wows and other cultural celebrations in Peawanuck (IAAC, 2023).

The Winisk River system provides a way for Weenuski Inninowuk to travel to and from traditional territory and connect with culturally significant sites and areas (MNP LLP, 2023).

Important sites for Weenusk First Nation include ceremonial sites, burial sites, sites for teaching/passing on traditional and cultural practices, and storied sites (MNP LLP, 2023b). This includes areas along the Winisk River, the Shamattawa River, and Shamattawa Lake, which are important storied sites. Other important sites include the Sutton River and Sutton Lake, Mishamattawa River, Moshikopaw Lake, Fawn River, and Shagamu River (MNP LLP, 2023b).

Although these sites have a cultural importance to Weenusk First Nation, neighbouring communities are often unaware of these sites (MNP LLP, 2023). In an interview, one member believes that much of the information on the land has been lost due to the lasting impacts of residential schools. There is a concern amongst the community that this loss of information and stories of traditional areas prevents culture from being transmitted to younger generations. Moreover, as development encroaches onto Weenusk traditional areas, there is a growing concern that the practice of Weenusk culture and way of life will change drastically for younger generations.

7.2.2 Regional Study Area

Culturally and spiritually important sites and areas include travel routes, burial sites, and gathering sites. These areas are important to Indigenous communities within the RSA as the sites hold historical value and allow members to spiritually connect with their ancestors through traditional ceremonies and activities. Some of these areas are only accessible by limited routes, which may also only be available during specific seasons (i.e., summer and winter roads); impacts to these travel routes may affect accessibility to culturally and spiritually important sites and areas. Identifying these areas will help determine the potential effects of the Project on culturally and spiritually important sites and areas.

Culturally and spiritually important sites and areas by Indigenous communities within the RSA have been identified throughout the project engagement and consultation and review of the literature (e.g., CBLUPs). A summary of the background information is provided in **Table 7-2**.

Table 7-2: Culturally and Spiritually Important Sites and Areas by Indigenous Communities within the RSA

Community	Culturally and Spiritually Important Sites and Areas (Travel routes, burial sites, gathering sites)
Aroland First Nation	Aroland First Nation's traditional territory encompasses areas of cultural and traditional significance, including the following: Pow-wow grounds located on the south shore of Wawong Lake, approximately 1 km west of the community; and traditional burial grounds on the shores of Kawashkagam Lake; (Aroland First Nation, 2014). Aroland First Nation has a deep connection to the waters and lands in the traditional territory and a strong reliance on traditional land use activities including fishing, hunting, trapping, and gathering (Aroland First Nation, 2022).
Constance Lake First Nation	Constance Lake First Nation have identified within their ToR for their CBLUP an AIP which includes territory that has been used by Constance Lake First Nation members. See **Figure 7-1**.

Community	Culturally and Spiritually Important Sites and Areas (Travel routes, burial sites, gathering sites)
Fort Albany First Nation	The main water artery for Fort Albany First Nation is the Kistachowan River, which is used for the following: hunting; fishing; camping; connecting communities; raising children; connecting to ancestors at points along the river where there are burials; sharing news and knowledge; and marking significant moments and events (Restoule et. al, 2013).
Ginoogaming First Nation	Ginoogaming First Nation was granted an interim injunction in 2021 for any mining activities to take place in Wiisinin Zaahgi'igan, an area of land which is located within their territory (Garrick, 2021). The area is roughly 360 km^2 in size and located 300 km northeast of Thunder Bay (Turner, 2021). This area is sacred and of cultural importance to Ginoogaming First Nation and includes burial sites, hunting areas and areas where ceremonies have been performed (Turner, 2021).
Kashechewan First Nation	Kashechewan First Nation have identified within their ToR for their CBLUP an AIP which includes territory that has been used by Kashechewan First Nation members. See **Figure 7-1**.
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug summer travel route historically focused on two segments of well travelled routes. The first route is the western half of Big Trout Lake to the east to Wapekeka Lake and the second is from Severn Lake, west of Big Trout Lake to Bearskin Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Other summer travel routes exist to other communities, but the route is often more complicated with networks of rivers, lakes and portages (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Winter travel routes include a route that is diagonal from Wapekeka Lake to Otter River, an area around Long Dog Lake and south of Big Trout Lake from Lake Nemeigusabins to the Bug River-Mishwamakan River area (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug has previously outlined that most burial grounds are unmarked and along the shores of waterways (Golder, 2018).
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	The original community – Big Beaver House Lake – is a culturally important site for Kingfisher Lake First Nation (Golder, 2018). Kingfisher Lake members have expressed a strong reliance on the rivers, specifically the Ashweig, and Pipestone (this connects Marie Lake and Wunnummin Lake) (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Kingfisher Lake community members have a number of traditionally important meeting places along the Pipestone-Pineimuta River route (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). During the summer, groups from Windigo Lake, North Caribou Lake and Weagomow Lake will gather along this summer travel route (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). There are many summer routes that Kingfisher Lake community members utilize which include a northerly route to Big Trout Lake along the Ashweig River and a route south of Kingfisher Lake through Big Beaver House and then to Menako Lake and Obustiga Lake region (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). During the winter, there is significant movement between Kingfisher Lake, Big Beaver House and Wunnummin Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

Community	Culturally and Spiritually Important Sites and Areas (Travel routes, burial sites, gathering sites)
Long Lake #58 First Nation	Travel routes that have been previously identified include a route on the north end of Wildgoose Lake, through the Southwest Arm of Kenogamisis Lake and continuing through Kenogamisis Lake and a route through Long Lake (Stantec, 2017). Members of Long Lake #58 First Nation have also identified cabins near the railway between the Ward of Geraldton and the community of Long Lake, and along the shores of Long Lake. The location of cabins is typically an appropriate distance from sacred sites and near the natural resources being harvested (Stantec, 2017). Sacred sites are located near the railway, east of the Ward of Geraldton, along the shores of Long Lake and surrounding the community of Long Lake. Narrows Lake is described as a sacred area. MacLeod Provincial Park and the shores of Kenogamisis Lake were additionally recognized as ceremonial areas (Stantec, 2017).
Métis Nation of Ontario	Métis Nation of Ontario have asserted regional rights for historic Métis communities throughout Ontario (Know History Inc., 2016). Métis sites and routes for cultural practices, land and water travel were identified along Long Lake # 58, Ginoogaming Lake Nipigon and areas near Longlac (Know History Inc., 2016). Past HBC posts were also identified as historic sites (Know History Inc., 2016). Citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario utilize many camp and cabin sites within the Municipality of Greenstone, with many members using bush camps, cabins, public campgrounds, temporary structures, and other rest areas situated around Geraldton and Beardmore (Know History Inc. 2016). Métis Nation of Ontario consider camping sites as having important spiritual or ceremonial connections (Stantec, 2017). Citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario use these burial sites, historic Métis travel routes, and HBC posts to spread the ashes of loved ones, and as gathering areas to practice cultural traditions and share food with other Métis people (Know History Inc. 2016).
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	Mishkeegogamang First Nation had previously camped around Lake. St Joseph, and log cabins and wigwams were built along the 1900s (Mishkeegogamang First Nation, 2010a).
North Caribou Lake First Nation	North Caribou Lake First Nation would historically gather every summer at the home of their leader, Gici David, located at Atikup Point. When Gici David died in 1907, the Anglican Church built a church at this location (Gordon, 1983). Atikup Point continues to be an important gathering area for North Caribou Lake First Nation.
Wapekeka First Nation	Fawn-Otter River is an important location for members of Wapekeka First Nation (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). There are multiple summer travel routes – two main ones have members travelling to Big Trout Lake from Wapekeka as well as north along the Fawn River (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The Fawn River was an important HBC supply route to Fort Severn and Winisk (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Once air transport became more popular, this route continued to be utilized by members (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Another summer route includes travel between Kasabonika and Big Trout Lake via Wapekeka Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). There are two main winter travel routes for Wapekeka First Nation member – the first is north and east of Wapekeka Lake and Otter Lake between the Witegoo River on the west and Ghost Lake on the east. This route extends along Fawn River. The second winter route is south of Big Trout Lake, centred on the Bug and Mishwamakan Rivers (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). A precontact unmarked burial site was previously found in 1988 when the Wapekeka First Nation airstrip was under construction (Hamilton, 2004).

Community	Culturally and Spiritually Important Sites and Areas (Travel routes, burial sites, gathering sites)
Wawakapewin First Nation	The Wawakapewin website provides a passage about the origin of the community's name which comes from an old community document. *"The necessary tasks of making the morning fire in the akewiganun (moss covered teepees), outside checks, cleansing and prayer and the meal of whatever, was, as always, the first order of the day.* *Then began the home preparation. Cleaning and tidying, the heavier skins and the lighter rabbitskin woven blankets and garments hung outside on smooth poles tied between trees. Water hauled from the river in heavy leather pails. Short wood gathering forays for immediate use. The stock piling would be done later by the young men using dog teams to haul the dry wood.* *The shorter distance rabbit snares and fish weirs would be checked. If food was caught or was available, then the mid-day meal would be prepared and eaten. The men, most often, would be gone the full day with various hunting and checking activities.* *The children gave balance and enjoyment to these activities because they were all part of them. The old, accorded respect in all actions of others. Yet, they tended to chores according to their ability.* *It was at this time that people began going onto the river where dry grass and mud-insulated fishing holes were. They sat on a skin mat wrapped in an old rabbit skin robe as they jigged their baited bone fishhooks.* *Along the length of the river, seen from a distance, the people sat in a diminishing, meandering line. In other words, wawakapewuk, hence the name Wawakapewin." (Wawakapewin, 2024)* The Wawakapewin area has a historic importance for many First Nation communities in the area owing to an abundance of fish and game, where several river systems converge, and its location near the height of land between the Severn and Winisk River systems.
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	A traditional summer route included canoeing from Wunnummin Lake to Kingfisher Lake via Maria Lake or via the Pipestone River (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). From Kingfisher Lake, members can go north down to the Ashweig River with several portage routes to arrive at Big Trout Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). Historically, winter travel routes were more circular and were along trapping routes and do not always follow rivers or creeks. Winter travel routes typically were between Wunnummin Lake and Kingfisher Lake (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985). The heaviest travelled route is the route southeast of Wunnummin Lake to the McKay Sturgeon Martin trapping area (Kayahna Tribal Area Council, 1985).

8 Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use

This section summarizes a baseline of Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use. This includes land use plans and policies, community-based land use planning, industrial and commercial land use, outdoor recreation, tourism, and provincial parks and protected areas. Non-Traditional land use also includes the designating of lands through federal, provincial or municipal authorities for a specific use. Baseline information was developed through a desktop review of existing information, federal and provincial mapping databases, federal and provincial policy and regulation review and secondary data. Secondary data included a review of recreation and tourism websites, municipalities websites and news articles.

8.1 Land Use Context

This section provides the context for various terms that are used throughout the Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use section, including the governing authorities, associated acts and treaties and the parties involved, and authorizations/permissions.

8.1.1 Indigenous Homelands

It is acknowledged that the Project study areas are situated within the traditional lands of the Anishiniimowin/Anishinaabe/Mushkeego and Métis Peoples. “The Anishiniimowin/Anishinaabe/Mushkeego Peoples have called the lands of the James Bay Treaty home since time immemorial. The Mushkeego live mainly in the James Bay and Hudson Bay lowlands, while the Anishiniimowin and Anishinaabe traditionally live mainly in the interior, closer to the height of land that divides the James Bay and Hudson Bay watershed with those to the south.” (Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, 2022). The Métis homelands are also present within the James Bay Treaty area. The Anishiniimowin/Anishinaabe/Mushkeego and Métis Peoples are stewards of the land and hold the inherent right of self-determination that is recognized and affirmed under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982.* Canada has recently developed an Action Plan to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (The United Nations, 2007). The five-year Action Plan (2023-2028) outlines and affirms as well as respects the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples as they relate to lands, territories, resources, and autonomy.

8.1.2 Treaty Lands

Treaties are agreements made between the Government of Canada, Indigenous Nations and often provinces and territories that define ongoing rights and obligations on all sides. These agreements set out continuing Treaty Rights and benefits for each Indigenous Nation (CIRNAC, 2023a).

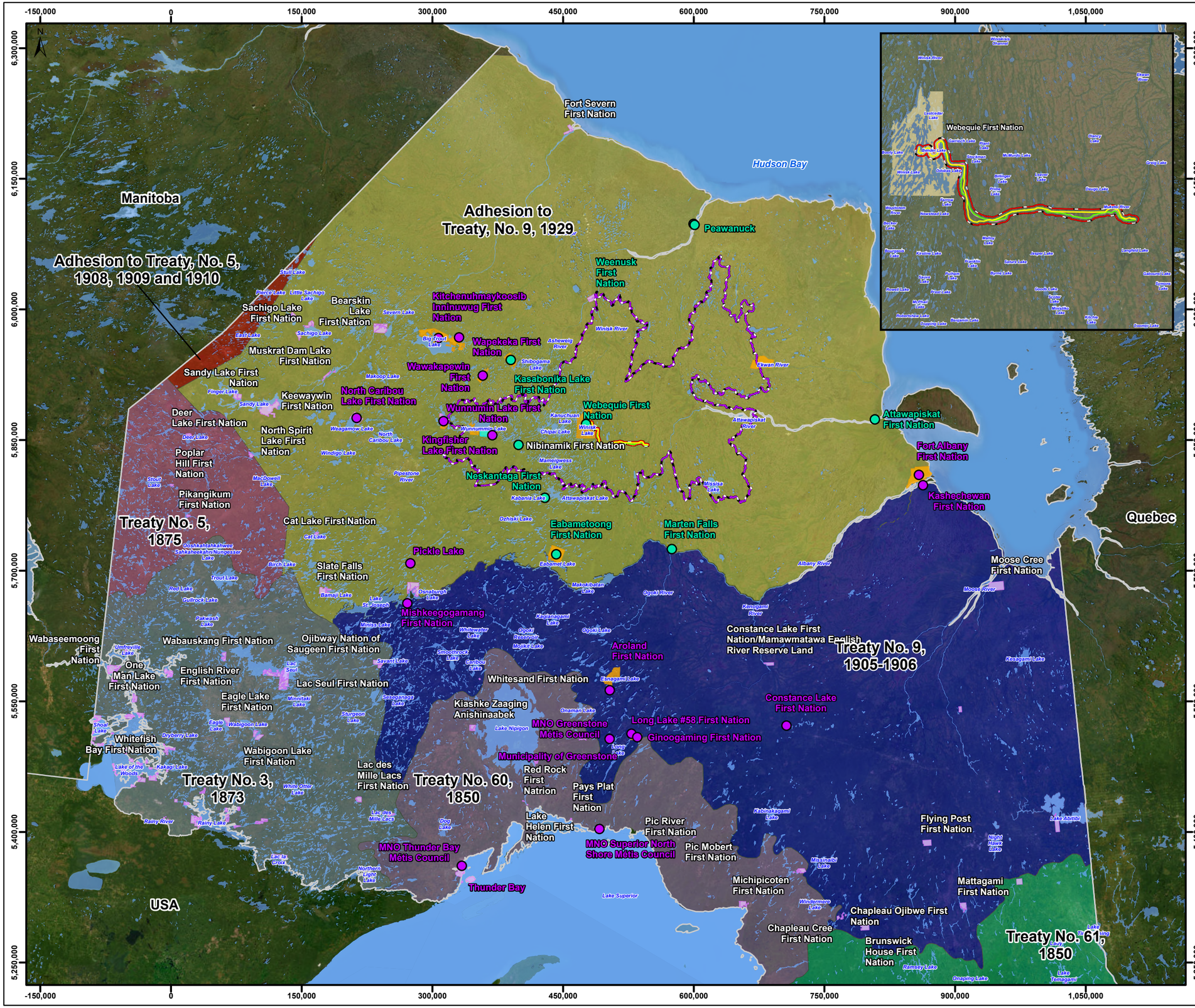
Treaties with Indigenous Nations in Ontario include both:

- Historic (numbered) treaties with Indigenous Nations;
- Modern treaties, also called comprehensive land claim agreements with Indigenous Nations; and
- Specific claim agreements to address past grievances.

The Project is located within land covered by Treaty No. 9 (CIRNAC, 2013). This Treaty pertains to the land area shown on **Figure 8-1**. The Treaty No. 9 area covers approximately two-thirds of Ontario's total landmass and includes:

> *"that portion or tract of land lying and being in the province of Ontario bounded on the south by the height of land and the northern boundary of the territory ceded by the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850, and the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850, and bounded on the east and north by the boundaries of the said province of Ontario as defined by law and on the west by a part of the eastern boundary of the territory ceded by the Northwest Angle Treaty No. 3." (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, 2013)*

Treaty No. 9 was signed between the Anishiniimowin/Anishinaabe/Mushkeego Peoples and the Crown in 1905-1906, with adhesions in 1929-1930. The Treaty contains a number of provisions including cash payments, the creation of reserves, education funds for schools and teachers, etc. With the signing of the Treaty, the Crown sought to extinguish First Nations title to the land. Treaty No. 9 also outlines traditional pursuits such as hunting, fishing and trapping that could continue, subject to federal regulations and "exceptions for settlement, mining, lumbering, trading or other purposes." (Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, 2023). **Figure 8-1** shows location of treaty lands and the reserves.



Legend

Route Label

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3 (Preferred Route)
- Socio-Economic Local Study Area
- Socio-Economic Regional Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Local Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Regional Study Area
- First Nation Reserve – Engaged in the Project
- First Nation Reserve
- Waterbody
- Provincial Boundaries

Treaty

- Adhesion to Treaty, No. 5, 1908, 1909 and 1910
- Adhesion to Treaty, No. 9, 1929
- Treaty No. 3, 1873
- Treaty No. 5, 1875
- Treaty No. 60, 1850
- Treaty No. 61, 1850
- Treaty No. 9, 1905-1906

Webequie Supply Road (WSR)

Treaty Lands and Reserves

Figure Number:	REV
8.1	PA

Client:	Project Number:	Date:
Webequie First Nation	661910	1/16/2026

DSC	DRN	CHK	APP
	AD	AL	SV

0 15 30 60 90 120 Km

WSR WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Download Date : 2021-02-04

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SIZE: 11 X 17

Service Layer Credits: World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics

Path: \\Tor01\Projects\E&W\Projects\661910 - Webequie First Nation Supply Rd\40_Execution\45_GIS_Dwgs\MXD\Socioeconomic\661910_WSR_SOC_BL_Treaty_0001_0004_repdfd\661910_WSR_SOC_BL_Treaty_0001_0004_repdfd.aprx

8.1.3 Reserves

The *Indian Act*, R.S.C., 1985, c.I-5, states that land on reserves is owned by the Crown (Government of Canada), but it is given to the First Nation or the Band to hold and use as a tenant. This legal structure (to be a tenant on land owned by the Crown) is shared between community members collectively which provides a beneficial interest in the land. Under the *Indian Act*, a reserve means a tract of land which the legal title is vested with His Majesty (Government of Canada) that has been set apart by His Majesty for the use or benefit of the Band. Section 81(1) sets out the by-laws which govern the authority of the Band Council and includes by-laws related to land use, zoning, the environment, and other works. These by-laws only apply on reserve. On many reserves, if land is legally given to a Band member, a certificate of possession or certificate of occupation is granted. The certificate grants the individual(s) rights of possession or occupation of the property for housing, business, or resource extraction. Under the *Indian Act*, this requires the approval of the Minister of Indigenous Services.

Webequie First Nation does not have a specific land code under the *First Nations Land Management Act* and land use is governed under the *Indian Act*. **Figure 8-1** shows locations of reserves in the project study areas. On December 15, 2022, the Framework Agreement on *First Nations Land Management Act* was enacted, replacing the previous *First Nations Land Management Act*. This streamlined legislation was collaboratively developed with the Lands Advisory Board and the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre, emphasizing that First Nation Land Management is a process led by First Nations themselves (CIRNAC, 2023b).

8.1.4 Crown Land

The Project is proposed to be located primarily on provincial Crown land and will require access to, and the development, use and occupation of lands and resources which are currently used for traditional activities by Indigenous communities. Crown land refers to land owned by federal or provincial governments under the *Public Lands Act*. Traditional activities of Indigenous communities include hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering, as well as cultural and spiritual activities, as presented in **Section 7**, occur on Crown land, consistent with the provisions of Treaty No.9.

Given the location of the Project, land designated under the *Far North Act, 2010* may be subject to CBLUPs initiated by Indigenous communities. See additional information in **Section 8.2**. **Table 8-1** shows the length of WSR within the Webequie Reserve and Crown land under each route alternative.

Table 8-1: Length of WSR within the Webequie Reserve and Crown Land under Each Route Alternative

Alternative	Length in Webequie Reserve (km)	Length within Crown Land (km)	Total Road Length (km)
1	16.5	90.2	106.7
2	16.4	88.8	105.2
3	16.3	89.9	106.3

8.1.5 Road/Transportation Studies

Webequie First Nation is a remote fly-in community that has access to materials and goods via the Webequie Airport and the use of seasonal winter roads that connect to the provincial highway system.

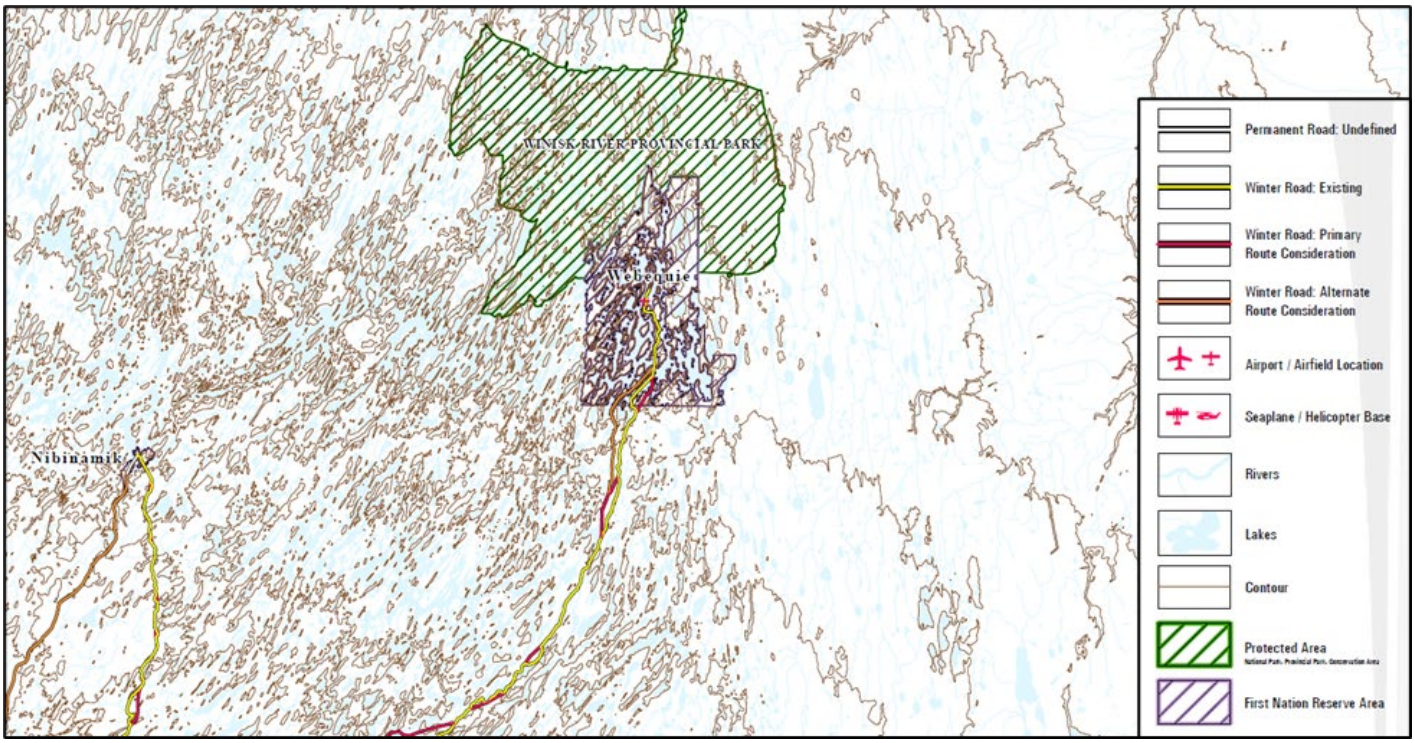
To provide context and background for the proposed development of the WSR and the scope of the EA/IA, it is important to understand the various road/transportation studies that have been completed in the region. A brief description of the relevant studies is presented in chronological order in the following subsections. All of these studies have contributed to the rationale for the development of the WSR.

8.1.5.1 Winter Road Re-Alignment Study (2008)

On behalf of five First Nations (Marten Falls, Eabametoong, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie), the Matawa First Nations Tribal Council conducted a study in 2008 to examine the realignment of selected sections of winter roads (Neegan Burnside, 2008) as shown in **Figure 8-2**. The study included extensive consultation with the First Nations, regulatory agencies and stakeholders (e.g., forestry companies and outfitters). It identified several alternative re-alignments and design alterations (e.g., improvement to road design and construction standards) to address deficiencies in the winter road system.

From the Webequie First Nation perspective, an all-season road provides community benefits by providing year-round access to the provincial highway system. In addition, the community would generate economic development opportunities related to the transportation of goods and services between Webequie, the mine development area, and the south.

Figure 8-2: Matawa Winter Road Realignment Study – Webequie LSA



Source: Neegan Burnside Ltd., 2008.

8.1.5.2 Cliffs Ferroalloys Black Thor Mine Integrated Transportation System (2011)

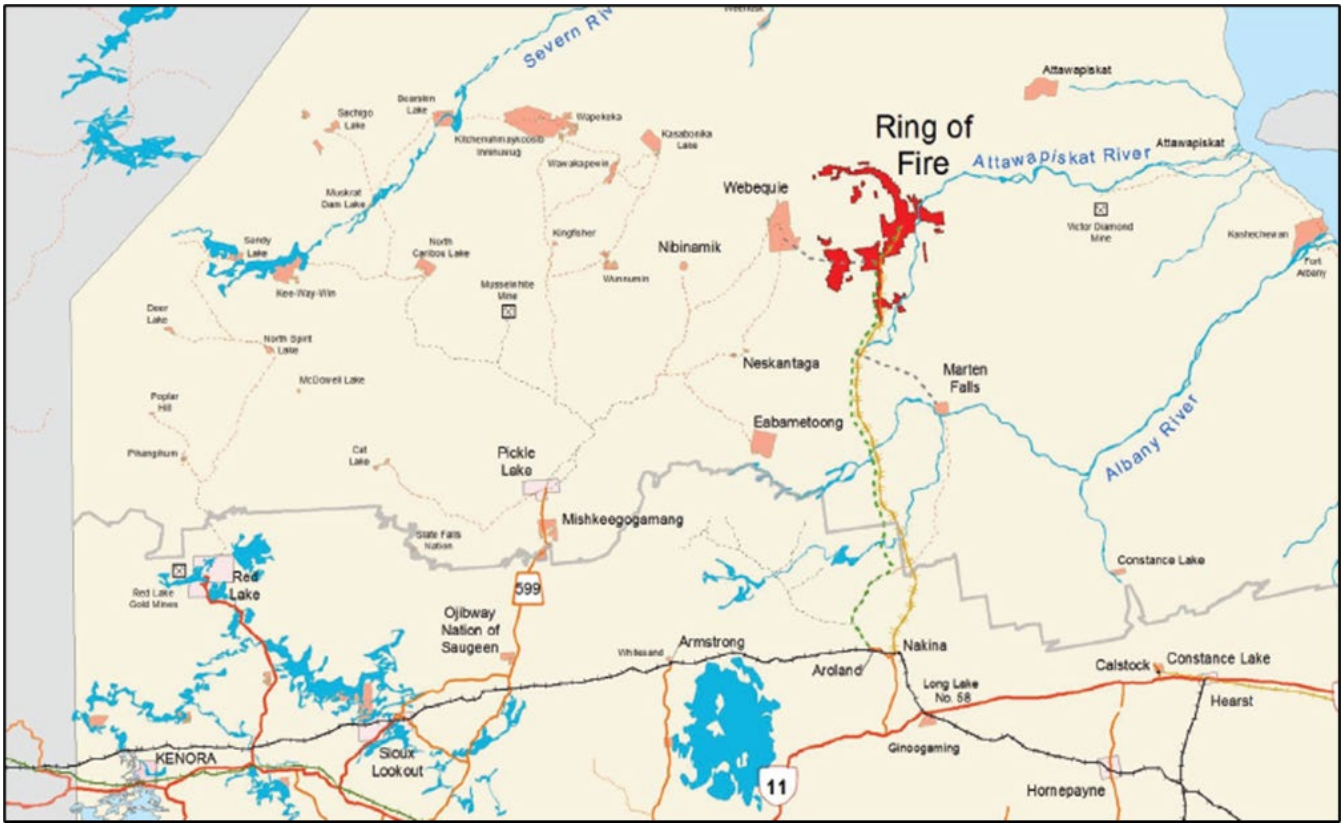
In 2011, Cliffs Natural Resources (“Cliffs”), announced its intention to move forward with permitting and development of the Black Thor Chromite Mine in the McFaulds Lake Ring of Fire area. As part of the Black Thor Chromite Mine study, Cliffs developed an Integrated Transportation System (ITS) that optimized all-season road connection of the Black Thor mine assets and facilities with the provincial highway system and the CN Rail system at Highway 584 near Nakina.

From the Webequie First Nation perspective, the preferred ITS selected by Cliffs did not include an all-season road connection to Webequie, thereby limiting the potential for the community to transport goods and services to the mine development area and potential for connection to the provincial highway system.

Around the same time, KWG, a junior mining company that is also active in the McFaulds Lake area, studied transportation options into the Ring of Fire area and identified a preference for a rail/road link that followed a similar corridor to the Cliffs proposed road corridor (Northern Policy Institute, 2015). The KWG preferred rail/road option (yellow hatched alignment) is also shown in **Figure 8-3**.

Cliffs no longer has mining interests in the Ring of Fire area (CBC News, 2013).

Figure 8-3: Cliffs Ferroalloys Proposed All-Season Road Route to Highway 584 and KWG Resources Proposed Rail/Road Route to Nakina



Source: Northern Policy Institute, 2015.

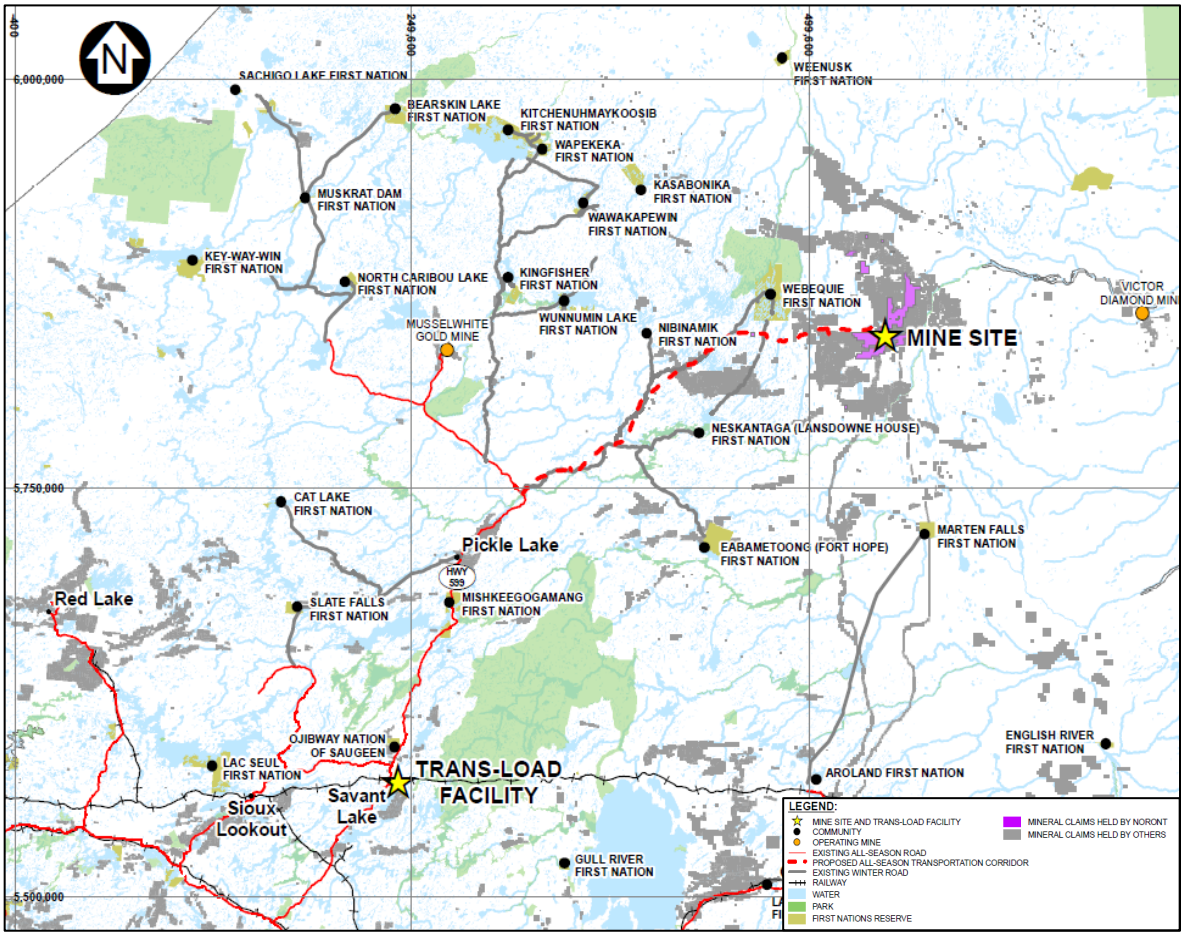
8.1.5.3 Noront Resources Eagle's Nest Mine Access Road (2013)

In 2013, Noront Resources prepared a draft federal/provincial EIS /EAR for their proposed Eagle's Nest mine in the McFaulds Lake area, including an examination of alternative road routes and types (e.g., winter, all-season and combined winter/all-season) that would connect the mine to the provincial highway system (Mineral Industry Consultants, 2012), as shown on **Figure 8-4**. The Noront draft EIS/EAR process was not completed Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, 2019). The provincial notice of approval for the Noront EA ToR for the Eagle's Nest Mine Project included the requirement that Noront re-screen four road corridors before reaching a conclusion on its access road corridor. The draft EIS/EAR for the Noront Eagle's Nest Mine Project was prepared in advance of the approval of the ToR for the provincial EA and does not reflect the requirement to re-screen access road corridors. The MECP EA Permissions Branch did not review the draft EIS/EAR. The WSR Project Team understands that the document was reviewed by federal agencies and comments were returned to Noront. As part of the transition to the new *Impact Assessment Act* on August 28, 2019, the Agency issued a Notice of Termination of the federal EA for the Eagle's Nest Mine Project (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

In 2022, Noront Resources was purchased by the Australian miner, Wyloo Metals, which included the Eagle's Nest nickel project (Wyloo Metals, 2022). In October 2022, Wyloo Metals rebranded their Ontario assets with the name Ring of Fire Metals and in September 2023 they combined their Canadian and Western Australia mine and exploration properties under one brand – "Wyloo" (Northern Ontario Business, 2023) also referred to as Wyloo Pty Ltd. Eagle's Nest is not yet in production, with the earliest commercial operations estimated to start in 2030 Northern Ontario Business, 2023). In 2024, Wyloo announced its expectations to produce 15,000 tonnes of nickel over a 20-year period (Allan, M., 2024).

From the Webequie First Nation perspective, an all-season road provides community benefits by providing year-round access to the provincial highway system. In addition, the community would generate economic development opportunities related to the transportation of goods and services between Webequie, the mine development area, and the south (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

Figure 8-4: Noront 2013 Proposed Eagle's Nest All-Season Transportation Corridor



Source: (Noront Resources Ltd., 2013).

8.1.5.4 All-Season Community Road Study (2016)

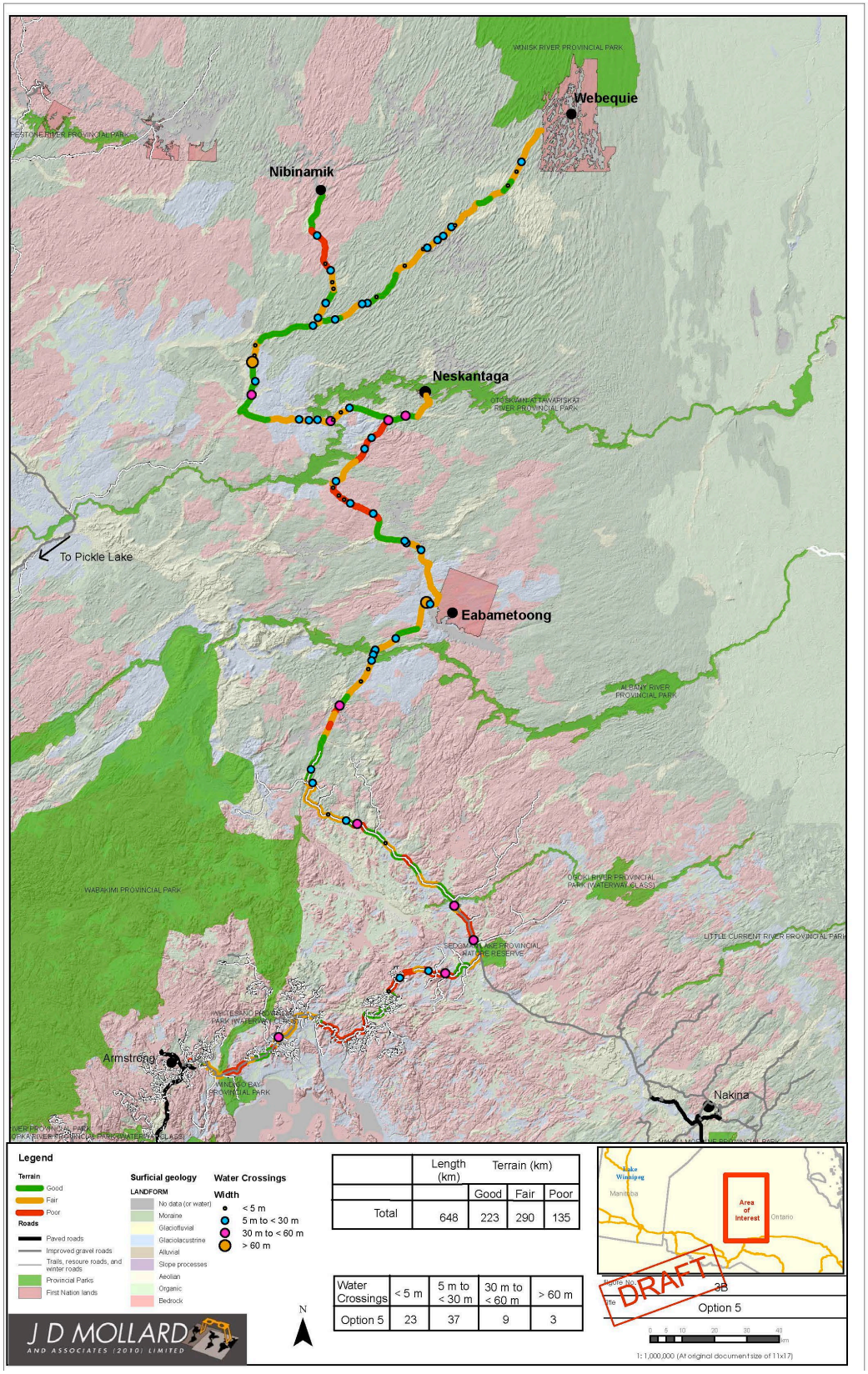
In June 2016, the Eabametoong First Nation, Webequie First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation partnered to complete the All-Season Community Road Study (ASCRS) (Webequie Supply Road, 2020). The purpose of this study was to examine options for interconnecting these Indigenous communities to each other and to the provincial highway system, with the goal of providing community social and economic benefits. Many alternatives were

examined, including those previously preferred by Noront Resources, Cliffs and KWG Resources (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

From the community engagement and assessment completed, a preferred corridor was identified with a general east-west orientation that connected the four communities to the provincial highway system at Pickle Lake as shown on **Figure 8-5**. The preferred corridor/road from the 2016 ASCRS did not connect to the McFaulds Lake area due to unresolved issues and concerns expressed by some participating First Nations about mining development in the Ring of Fire area (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

From the Webequie First Nation perspective, the preferred alternative emerging from the 2016 ASCRS provided a number of social and economic benefits, including the interconnection with other Indigenous communities. However, there was additional interest in continuing to examine a supply road connection into the McFaulds Lake area. The connection between Webequie and McFaulds Lake is considered important to Webequie First Nation, as it could provide broader economic development opportunities and social benefits above and beyond the benefits of an all-season community road to Pickle Lake (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

Figure 8-5: All-Season Community Road Study – Preferred Alternative



Source: All Season Community Road Study, 2016.

8.1.5.5 All-Season Community Road Study – Phase 2 (2017)

In 2017, the Nibinamik and Webequie First Nations continued the ASCRS on their own to refine the preferred corridor analysis from the previous phase of the study (CBC News, 2017). The ASCRS – Phase 2 involved many discussions with Nibinamik and Webequie land users, Elders and youth to refine the corridor centre line and to determine support for an east-west connection to the provincial highway system at the NORT Road (Northern Ontario Resource Trail)/Pickle Lake Road. The Phase 2 study also included more extensive data collection, including field studies and gathering of more Indigenous Knowledge information. The Phase 2 study identified a refined east-west all-season road corridor as shown on **Figure 8-5**, which has essentially the same purpose of connecting Webequie and Nibinamik to the provincial highway system at Pickle Lake (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

From the Phase 2 study, it was determined there is reasonably strong support for an all-season community road to the provincial highway system, but not clear and full community support amongst the potentially connected and/or affected First Nations for interconnection of the all-season road to mining activity in the McFaulds Lake area (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

From the perspective of the Webequie First Nation, there was general community and political support for an all-season community road connection to the provincial highway system. However, there was concern that the discussion of the all-season road did not include an extension from the community eastwards to McFaulds Lake, which was thought to provide potential for greater economic development opportunities associated with the proposed mine exploration and future mining operations (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

The above studies, as background and context, provide the foundation for the development of the proposed WSR. In particular, the ASCRS and refined Phase 2 study helped to guide Webequie First Nation to identify the current preliminary preferred corridor for the Project, including consideration of alternatives (Webequie Supply Road, 2020).

8.1.6 Provincial Plans and Policies

8.1.6.1 The Planning Act

In Ontario, the *Planning Act* is a provincial legislation that sets up out the ground rules for land use planning. The *Planning Act* outlines how land may be used and controlled, and the purpose of this Act is to make sure that planning processes are fair, open, accessible, timely, efficient and promote the best economic and environmental interest within the provincial policy framework. The *Planning Act* allows the province to integrate matters of provincial interest into municipal and regional planning decisions by requiring that all decisions that are made are in conformance with provincial plans.

8.1.6.2 Growth Plan for Northern Ontario

The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario 2011 (GPNO) is a 25-year plan to align provincial decision-making and investment for economic and population growth in northern Ontario. It seeks to diversify resource-based industries, provide education and training, integrate infrastructure investments and planning, and build mutual understanding and work cooperatively with Indigenous communities in this vision. **Section 5** of the plan recognizes the need for an integrated, long-term transportation plan to improve connectivity of Ontario's fly-in communities and their various forms of travel including air transportation, winter roads to provide vital lifelines for food, amenities, education and health services. It seeks to align investments in infrastructure with economic development priorities in the GPNO, and coordinate transportation and land-use planning.

The GPNO also included mineral and mining supply and tourism as priority existing or emerging economic development sectors as opportunities to develop collaboration, investment, growth, labour, research-related strategies. It also affirmed the province's commitment to working collaboratively with Indigenous communities to integrate efforts in economic development planning, regional economic plans and regional economic development strategies that include the above-mentioned transportation points as well as the mineral and mining supply and services, and tourism sectors.

8.1.6.3 Far North Act, 2010

The *Far North Act*, 2010 as amended in December 2021, sets out a joint planning process between First Nations communities and the province of Ontario. The *Far North Act* facilitates land use planning decisions in the Far North by governing how the province will work with Indigenous communities to identify areas where development can occur, and areas that should be protected. The boundary of lands of the Far North is shown on **Figure 7-1**.

Section 1 of the *Far North Act* outlines:

The purpose of this Act is to provide for community-based land use planning in the Far North that:

- Sets out a joint planning process between the First Nations and Ontario[46];
- Supports the environmental, social and economic objectives for land use planning for the peoples of Ontario that are set out in Section 5; and
- is done in a manner that is consistent with the recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, including the duty to consult. 2010, c. 18, s. 1.

The Far North is defined in the Act as:

- The portion of Ontario that lies north of the land consisting of,
- Woodland Caribou Provincial Park,
- The following management units designated under Section 7 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994 as of May 1, 2009: Red Lake Forest, Trout Lake Forest, Lac Seul Forest and Caribou Forest,
- Wabakimi Provincial Park, and
- The following management units designated under Section 7 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994 as of May 1, 2009: Ogoki Forest, Kenogami Forest, Hearst Forest, Gordon Cosens Forest and Cochrane-Moose River, or
- The area, if any, that is set out in the regulations made under this Act and that describes the area described in clause (a) more specifically; ("Grand Nord").

The *Far North Act*, 2010 legislation was put in place to support the protection of environmental, cultural, and economic values for land use planning and to confirm that community-based land use planning is done in a manner consistent with recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. Ontario's *Far North Act*, 2010 was represented as a significant piece of legislation for Indigenous communities in the North, fortifying the importance of community-based land use planning and the exercise of Indigenous rights of stewardship and jurisdiction over specific territories in Ontario. The First Nation and MNR must jointly approve CBLUPs.

Under the *Far North Act*, 2010, the CBLUP process was developed by the province as a vehicle to explore with Indigenous communities and groups, among other land uses, the potential for permissible use of lands for forestry in First Nation's areas of interest. ToRs for CBLUPs have noted in the objectives that plans would include consideration of the following (Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations and MNR, 2013):

- Traditional and Customary Use;

[46] Community-based land use plans require provincial approval.

- Conservation and Protection;
- Forest Management (commercial forestry);
- Forest Management (non-timber forest products);
- Tourism (and Eco-Tourism);
- Geoscience and the Mineral Sector (exploration and mining);
- Recreation;
- Water Conservation and Protection;
- Renewable Energy;
- Access and Infrastructure;
- Climate Change; and
- Fire Management.

It is understood that several CBLUP processes have progressed with participating First Nations within the LSA and RSA area of the Project. **Section 8.2** outlines the status of the CBLUP with the 22 Indigenous Communities that are to be consulted and Included in the Aboriginal and Treat Rights and Interests Study. Additional information for CBLUP can be found in **Section 8.2.1.2**.

Table 8-2: Status of CBLUPs for Indigenous Communities that are to be Consulted and Included in the Aboriginal and Treat Rights and Interests Study

Indigenous Community	Status of Community Based Land Use Plan
Webequie First Nation	ToR for Webequie First Nation's CBLUP was signed in 2014. A draft CBLUP was prepared and updated in 2025. This draft CBLUP has not been released to the public. SNC-Lavalin reviewed this document internally.
Aroland First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Attawapiskat First Nation	ToR for Attawapiskat First Nation's CBLUP was signed in 2015. Completed outside of the Far North Act process.
Constance Lake First Nation	ToR for Constance Lake First Nation CBLUP was signed in 2014
Eabametoong First Nation	ToR for the Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations CBLUP was signed in 2013
Fort Albany First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Ginoogaming First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Kashechewan First Nation	ToR for Kashechewan First Nation CBLUP was signed in 2017
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Long Lake #58 First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Marten Falls First Nation	ToR for Marten Falls First Nation's CBLUP was signed in 2013
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	ToR for the Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations CBLUP was signed in 2013
Neskantaga First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Nibinamik First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
North Caribou Lake First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Wapekeka First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Wawakapewin First Nation	ToR for Wawakapewin First Nation CBLUP was signed in 2014

Indigenous Community	Status of Community Based Land Use Plan
Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation	ToR for Weenusk First Nation's was signed in 2017
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	No approved ToR for CBLUP
Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2	No approved ToR for CBLUP

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources, 2022e.

In the case of Webequie First Nation, an application was submitted to the MNRF for an exception order for the WSR Project on January 29, 2018. The application was accepted by the Minister on March 2, 2018. The *Far North Act*, 2010 was amended in 2021 and removed Section 12 that had previously outlined that new developments required a Lieutenant Governor in Council Order or Minister's Order before proceeding with development in areas that do not have a CBLUP (Environmental Registry of Ontario, 2021).

8.1.6.4 Mining Act

The *Mining Act* regulates mining and the sequence of activities from prospecting to development and rehabilitation. It supports the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and includes the duty to consult and to provide approaches to minimize the effects of mining on public health, safety and the environment. Consultation with First Nations, the public and landowners takes place at each stage in the mining sequence. Various technical studies and feasibility assessments are required prior to construction activities to extract minerals as well as plans for the mine after development is complete which included post-closure restoration, progressive rehabilitation and monitoring plans. Certain rights and responsibilities are assigned at different stages in the mining sequence as mining claim holders have a right to explore for minerals, but mining lease holders have the right to extract mineral.

Critical minerals have properties that are used in other economic sectors and that are also used in 'everyday' lives as they have industrial or technological applications in the information and communications, clean energy, energy, transportation, aerospace, health and life science sectors in Ontario and globally. The *Mining Act* and its regulations play a crucial role in ensuring the activities to extract minerals from land carefully considers the broader impacts and benefits.

8.1.6.5 Northern Ontario Transportation Plan

The draft Northern Ontario Transportation Plan, 2020 was developed to serve as a guide to help build a modern and sustainable transportation system for people in Northern Ontario. It contains actions that will connect communities, provide safer and more reliable travel and unlock economic potential in the region. Goal 6 of the plan specifically addresses providing reliable travel options for remote and Far North communities. This plan is a living document and will be updated with actions to reflect the evolving needs of the region (Ministry of Transportation, 2022).

The Project is aligned with the objectives of this Plan and will support the goal of achieving sustainable development for northern Ontario.

8.1.6.6 Forest Management Planning and Management Units

Forest management is the responsibility of the MNRF with the mandate of protecting the long-term sustainability of forests on Crown land (Policy Division Crown Forest and Land Policy Branch, 2021). The province issues Sustainable Forest Licenses to forest product companies or groups of companies and communities. Through forest management planning, forests provide for sustainable forests now and in the future, and provide a range of sustainable benefits, such as timber and commercial products, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

On July 1, 2020, the province removed Forest Management Plans (FMPs) from the *Environmental Assessment Act* (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2023) as MNRF has complementary or duplicated policy directions and documents produced under *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Previously FMPs were covered under Ontario Declaration Order MNR-75 in Regulation 334. Eliminating the forest management planning process still requires licensee to fulfill the planning requirements set out in the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2023b).

Forestry is not a consideration for potential in the Project as the LSA and RSA does not fall under a forest management unit.

8.1.6.7 Fisheries Management Plan and Management Zones

The Fisheries Management Plan as administered by MNRF is designed to highlight and protect the value of the diversity of lakes and rivers and to be flexible and adaptable to a wide range of future conditions. The planning process considers the lake and river system in a holistic manner and includes a range of management options to secure a healthy lake environment that conserves the diversity of the fish community and provide opportunities to contribute to the social and economic well-being of the surrounding area. Ontario is divided into Fisheries Management Zones (FMZ). The RSA falls within Zones 1-3 of the Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) and the LSA falls within Zones 2 and 3 of the FMZs (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2023). Each Zone outlines designated protected areas for critical habitat conservation, controlled fish stocking programs, restrictions and guidelines for sport and conservation activities, and timing windows for activities near water as it relates to fishing to verify sustainability of the region's aquatic life. No specific fisheries management plans have been approved for FMZ 1 – 3 (MNRF, 2023h).

8.2 Land Use Plans and Policies

Land use planning is a process of assessing and regulating existing and future land use requirements of a study area to promote desired objectives and outcomes. Land use planning can be viewed as a colonial construct; however, Indigenous Peoples are stewards of the land and have been planning for the land for generations (Ontario Professional Planners Institute, 2019). In the context of the Project, it is essential to review existing policies and consider both growth and transportation objectives. A land use policy's purpose is to guide decisions to support community objectives and accommodate population and economic growth.

Stewardship of lands and resources is a fundamental principal in the function of communities. Indigenous communities in the LSA and RSA have ongoing land use processes, within reserves and across broader traditional territories. Some First Nations in the LSA and RSA have entered into formal processes with the federal and provincial government to undertake a CBLUP, on-reserve land use plan and a comprehensive community plan (CCP), as tools for achieving their community's goals. These processes are carried out cooperatively with federal and provincial governments, and some planning processes are kept internal to communities. This section reflects the land use planning information available from Indigenous communities. From the available terms of reference for CBLUPs, **Figure 7-1** shows the planning areas of interest (AIP) provided by Indigenous communities.

The Project is also subject to federal and provincial planning policy initiatives that will direct how this Project will be undertaken. A number of plans and studies that provide guidance regarding the need and justification for the Project are described in the following subsections. The information presented in these subsections provides information on the compatibility with existing and proposed land uses. As applicable to the assessment, the analysis describes the goals of local and regional land use plans and/or p, and the extent to which the Project is aligned with such plans to avoid or enhance social effects.

8.2.1 Local Study Area

A number of remote fly-in and winter road access First Nation communities, have been (or are currently) undertaking community land use planning, which considers the remote nature of these communities. Where information is available, the following section describes community-based land use planning (CBLUP), on-reserve land use planning and other planning processes. It is noted that most First Nations do not publicly share their community plans, and currently, information is limited on such communities that have not provided information for the Socio-Economic Baseline for the Project.

Five First Nation communities have developed draft Community Based Land Use Plans (CBLUPs). This section outlines the different CBLUPs in each First Nation community.

- The foundation of Webequie First Nation's draft CBLUP is their three-tier inherited model which identifies three areas around the community of Webequie – the Reserve Land Base, Cultural Land Base and Economic Land Base.
- Marten Falls First Nation's draft CBLUP addresses environmental and cultural issues, and identifies Socio-Economic development strategies.
- Nibinamik First Nation is in the process of updating their land use plan and are looking into an alternate process to that imposed by the province, while simultaneously seeking recognition by the province.
- Limited information is publicly available about Neskantaga's land use plans.
- No information on Kasabonika Lake First Nation's land use plan is available.
- The ToR for the Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations is intended to guide the communities' values and objectives for land use planning.
- The ToR for Attawapiskat First Nation's CBLUP set out the communities valued components proposed planning process and its guiding principles.
- In 2017, Weenusk First Nation began working jointly with the MNRF, to prepare a CBLUP.

8.2.1.1 Webequie First Nation

The Webequie First Nation's strategic approach to land use planning encompasses both community-specific and broader territorial considerations. Through the formulation of the draft CBLUP and the On-Reserve Land Use Plan, Webequie is navigating the intricate balance between sustainable development and cultural preservation. These plans, along with the Webequie CCP, collectively reflect the community's commitment to harmonizing growth, resource utilization, and traditional values within the framework of their unique Three-Tier governance model. The following sections elaborate more on these comprehensive planning efforts and their strategic implications.

8.2.1.1.1 Draft Community-Based Land Use Plan

Webequie First Nation has worked with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to put forward its draft CBLUP. This land use planning process has included incorporating and documenting land utilization patterns, sites of Indigenous cultural significance and historical and current traditional practices to establish the Webequie CBLUP in the context of the *Far North Act*, 2010 which provides the authority, purpose, and process for Webequie First Nation community-based land use planning (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022f). The draft CBLUP details the community's current land use and describes their, philosophies, and objectives for future land uses as it pertains to traditional and resource use, cultural heritage and protection, environmental protection and enhancement, mineral exploration and development, infrastructure and development, tourism, forestry, aggregate use, and commercial use (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

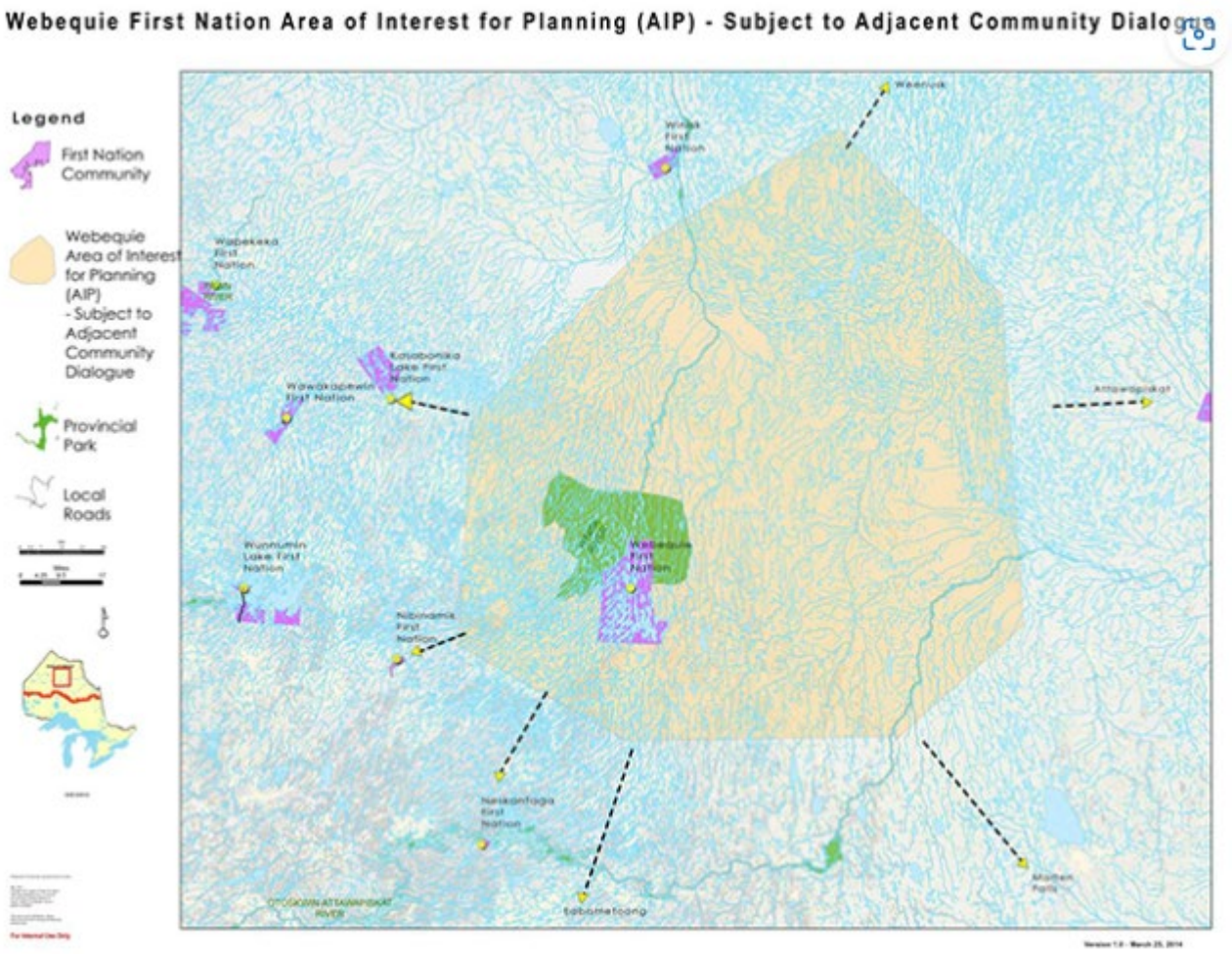
The creation of the CBLUP involved planning, engagement with community members, and neighboring First Nations. As part of the vision for the community, Webequie shows respect for neighbouring communities that have shared the land and, therefore, will incorporate shared interests in the development and implementation of the land use plan.

Inherent to the plan, Webequie has a belief that they are, in fact, stewards of the land and have the need and the right to live off the land. The community recognizes the need to balance development with protection. They value living off the land to preserve cultural heritage, while also understanding that resources in the planning area and beyond are important for the community's well-being and future growth (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

The Draft Webequie CBLUP has a proposed planning area of 2,875,000 ha within the geography of the First Nation (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). **Figure 8-6** shows the Area of Interest in Planning (AIP). The area constitutes a larger traditional territory which Webequie Anishininniwuk continue to exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and carry out Indigenous livelihoods and culture. The Draft CBLUP also cites all-season road options for Webequie First Nation in the areas west, south and east of the community, which may provide for synergies with access to nearby mineral sector projects. In this context, it is important to note that Marten Falls is in the process of preparing its own CBLUP and a portion of the Project area is included in the Marten Falls ToR CBLUP planning area of interest. Further discussions between Webequie and Marten Falls, including a determination of how to proceed with land use designations in overlapping planning areas will be required prior to either CBLUP being finalized.

The Draft Plan recommends five land use areas, with land use designations of Dedicated Protected Area, Enhanced Management Area, and General Use Area. All land use designations identified in the draft CBLUP developed to date are 'Draft' and subject to further revision (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

Figure 8-6: Webequie First Nation Draft CBLUP ToR AIP



8.2.1.1.2 Webequie First Nation On-Reserve Land Use Plan

In 2019, Webequie First Nation put forward the Webequie First Nation On-Reserve Land Use Plan (Webequie First Nation, 2019). The reserve is approximately 34,279 ha. This plan was developed to provide guidance for community land use and development projects. It established a shared community vision, outlined the types of development and land uses that are allowed and where, set guidelines for development, and outlined a process of authorization. The On-Reserve Land Use Plan applies to Tier 1 of the Webequie Inherited Three-Tier Mode for Reserve Land – defined as where the Webequie people live. The plan outlines policy for land management within the Tier 1 lands and action items for the future.

The plan was prepared using input from different sources including:

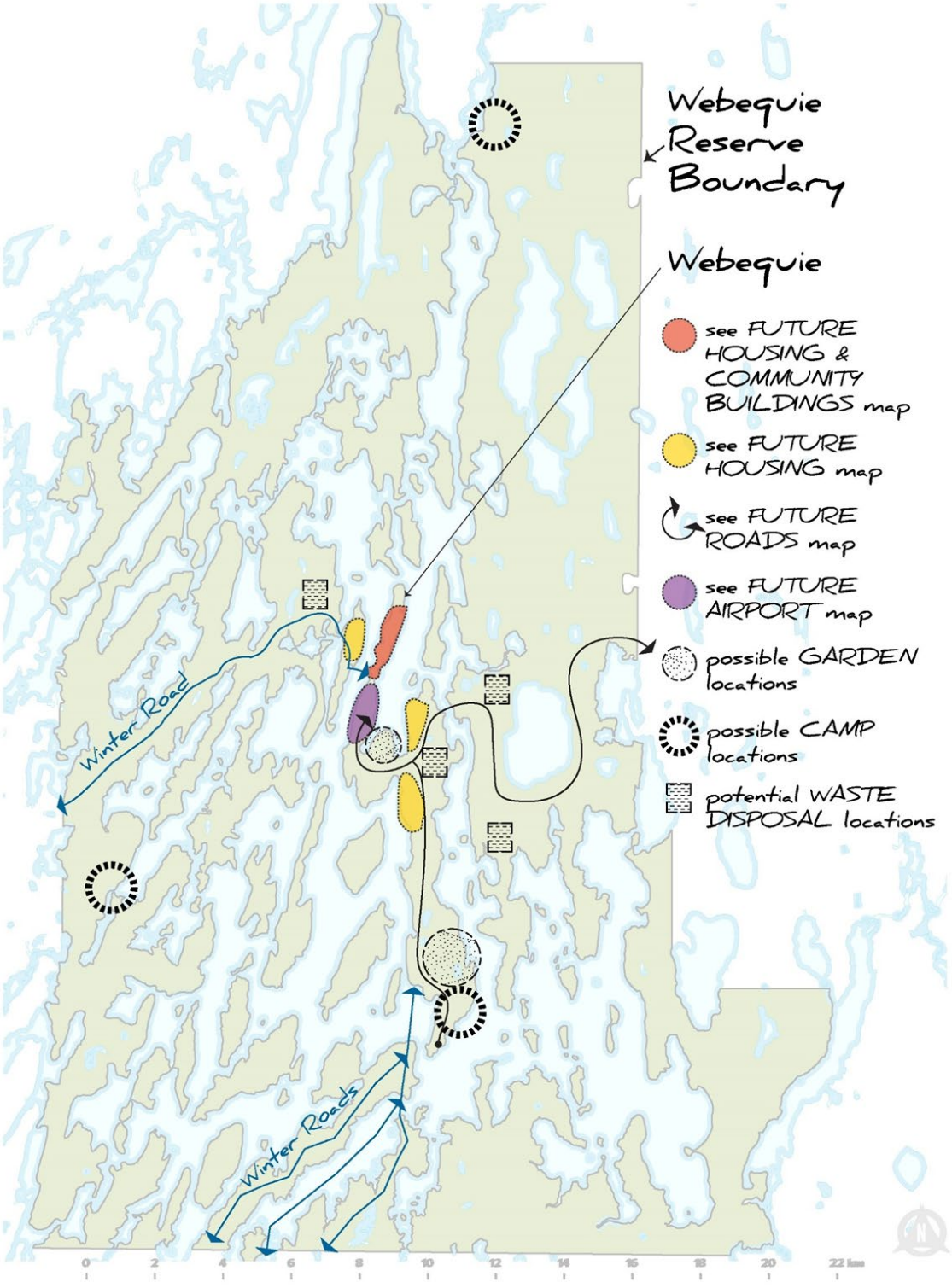
- Webequie members;
- Webequie Employment Department;
- Information from the 2017 Housing Assessment;
- 2014 Capital Planning Study prepared by AECOM;
- 2017 Airport Redevelopment Plan;
- Draft CBLUP; and
- CCP Interim Report – 2016.

The Webequie On-Reserve Land Use Plan includes a review of:

- Identifying the goals of the community and what they are planning for;
- Relevant map diagrams showing existing infrastructure, and maps showing proposed services;
- Information on history, language and culture;
- Population and membership as well as age and gender information included;
- Employment and employer statistics;
- Housing statistics and information; and
- List of existing infrastructure and proposed repairs/replacements and expansions.

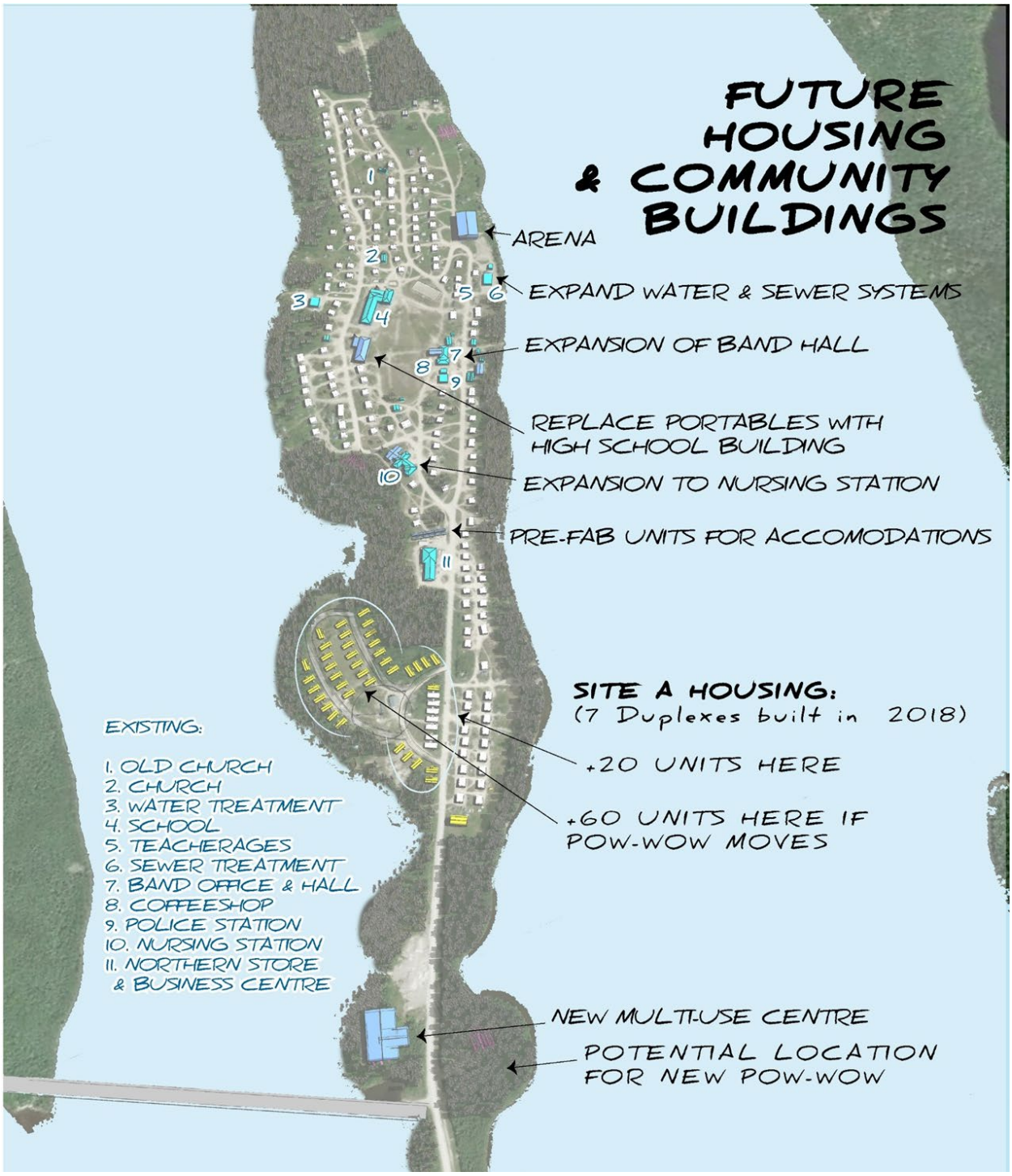
Mapping included in this plan (shown on **Figure 8-7**, **Figure 8-8**, **Figure 8-9**, **Figure 8-10**, and **Figure 8-11** below) indicates where and what could be built within the reserve and includes an arena, expansion of water and sewer, new housing, a multi-use centre, expansion or new portables for the school, expansion of the nursing station, expansion of the band hall and a new business centre. The plans also include a map of future roads, airport expansion and camp locations. The plan includes four priority areas for future housing locations within the reserve. Webequie First Nation population is anticipated to grow, and their average annual growth rate has been 2.6% from 2002 – 2017. The plan forecasted 1,159 members living on reserve by 2037 (Webequie First Nation, 2019). A review of the existing housing identifies that there will be a housing shortfall on reserve. Approximately 150 houses need to be built over the next 20 years to aim for “uncrowded” housing conditions – with an average of 4 people per home. Along with new housing, the reserve will require new utilities and services to support the growing population. Economic development within the community includes the mining activity in the area and the growing ecotourism opportunities. The Plan also outlines general guidelines for environmental and cultural protection to verify that the new development protects traditional uses, culturally sensitive sites, environmentally sensitive areas and encourages green design and buildings (Webequie First Nation, 2019).

Figure 8-7: Webequie First Nation – What We Will Build Where



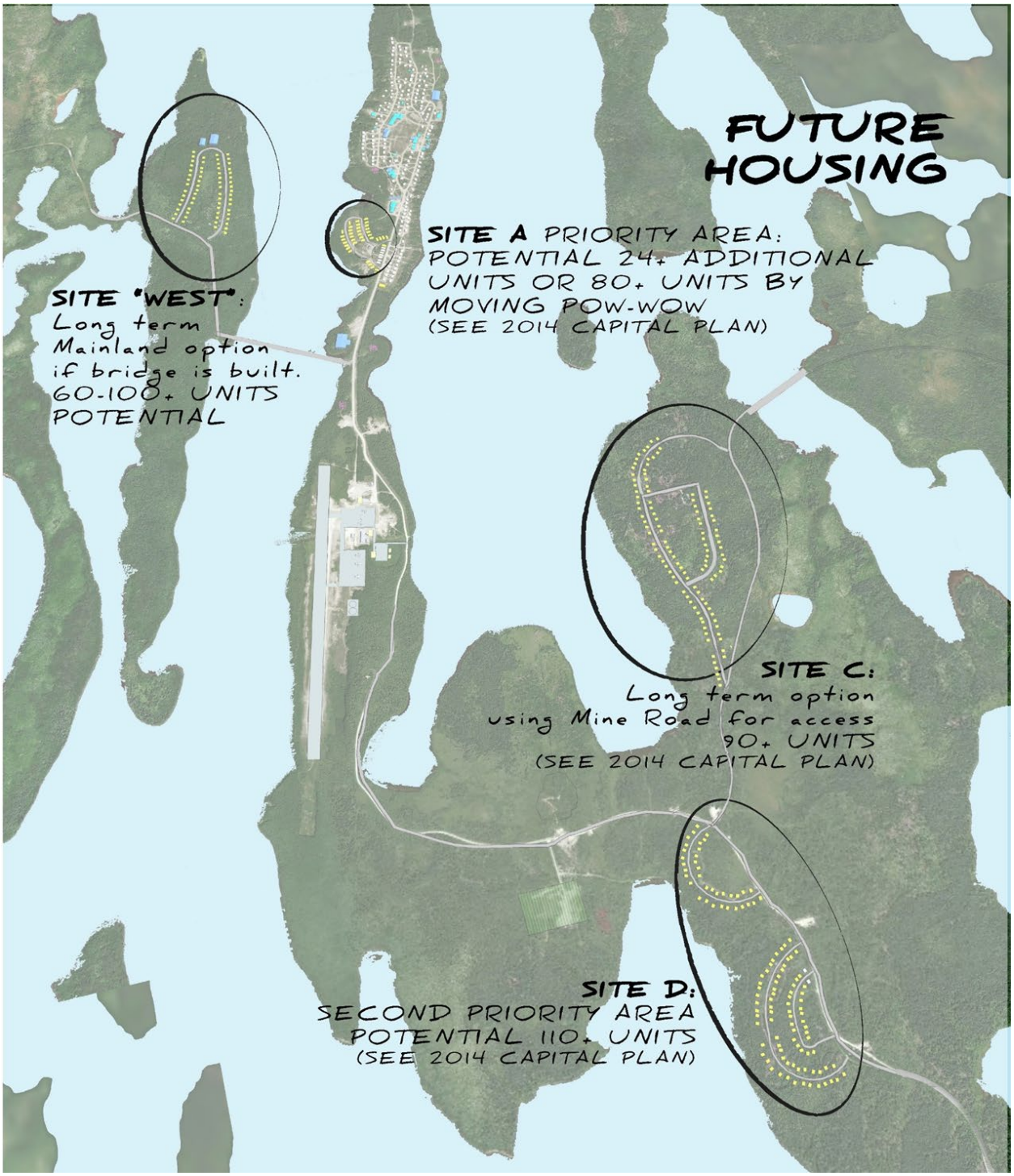
Source: Webequie First Nation, 2019

Figure 8-8: Webequie First Nation – Future Housing and Community Buildings



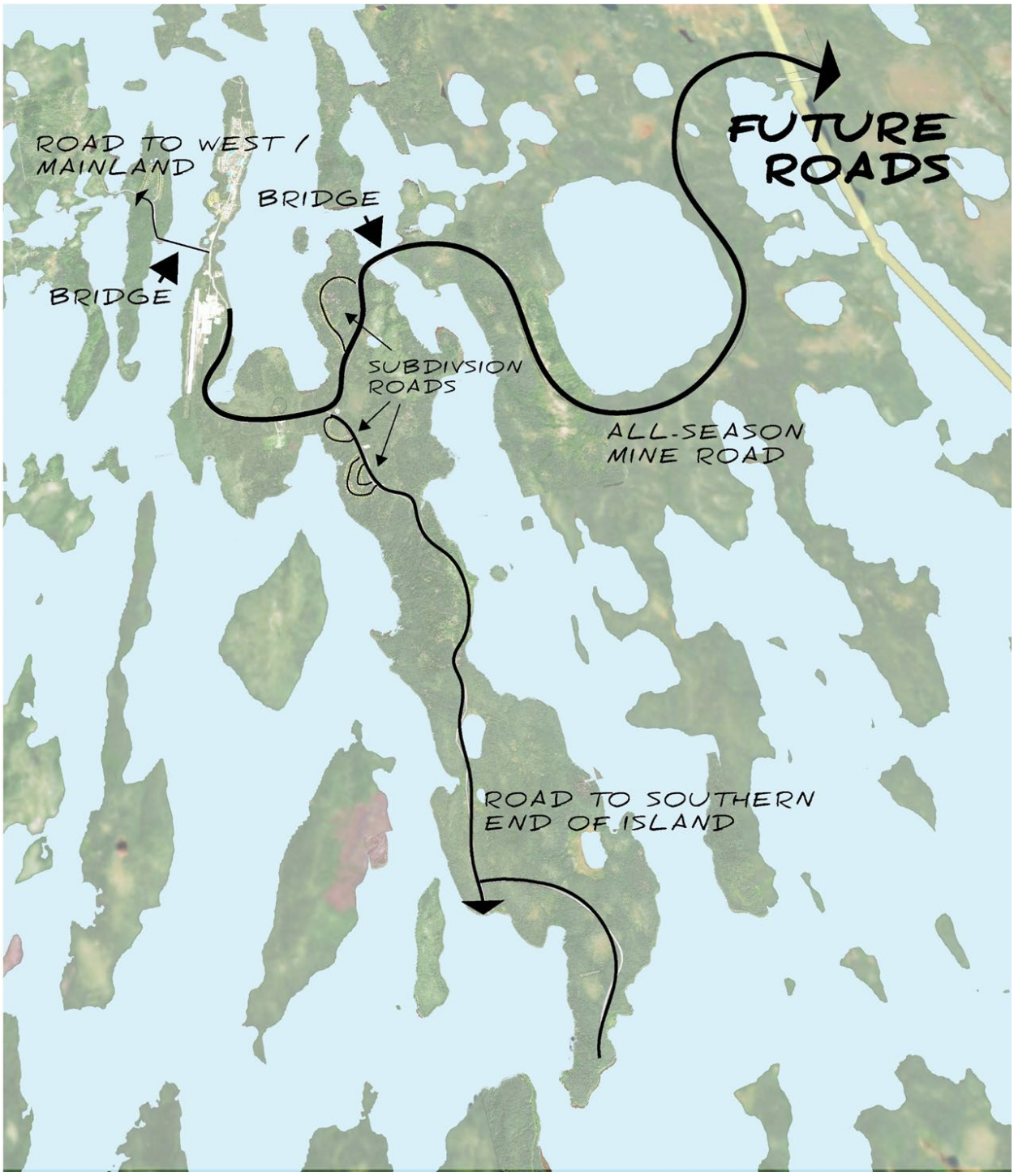
Source: Webequie First Nation, 2019

Figure 8-9: Webequie First Nation – Future Housing



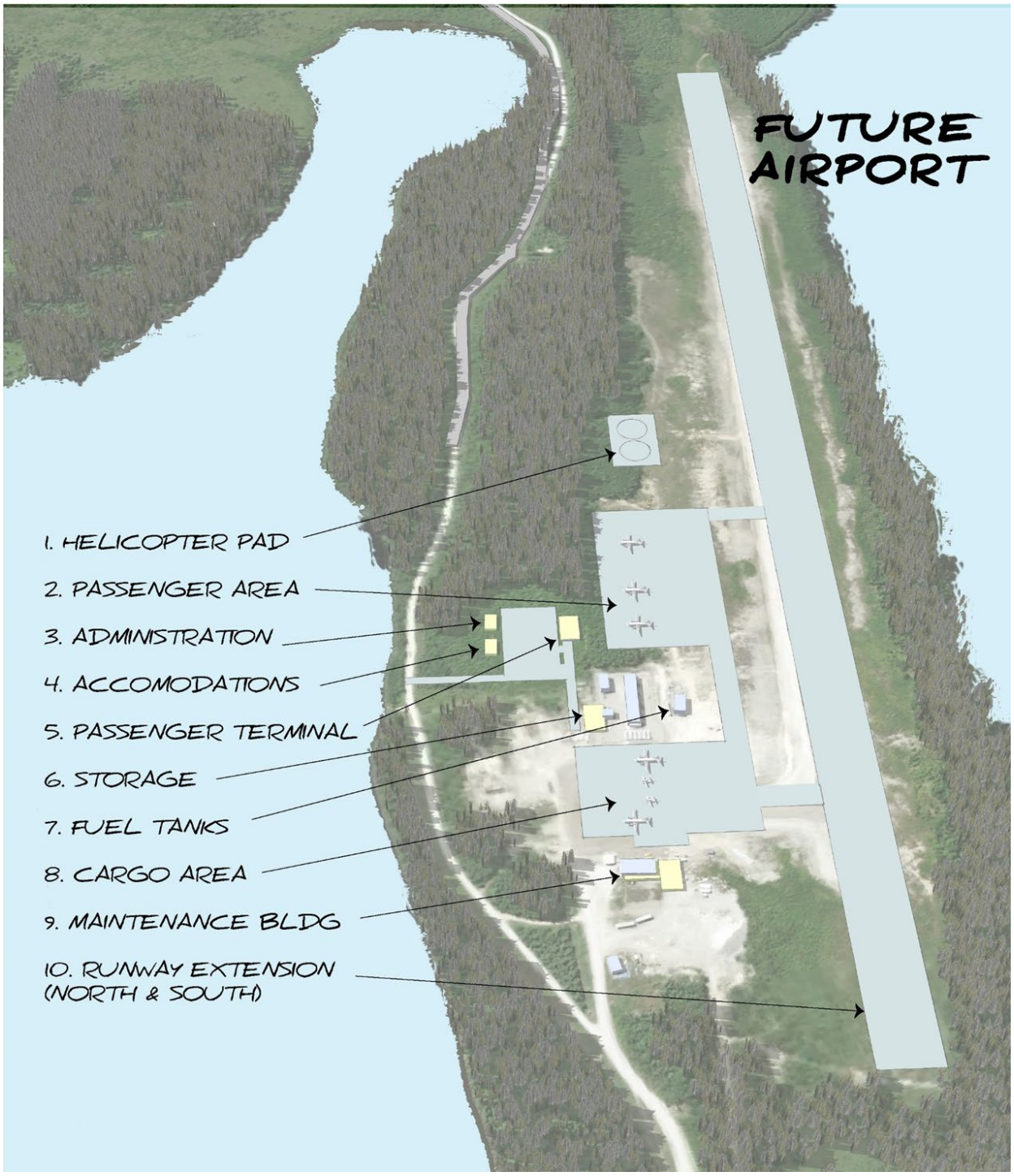
Source: Webequie First Nation, 2019

Figure 8-10: Webequie First Nation – Future Roads



Source: Webequie First Nation, 2019

Figure 8-11: Webequie First Nation – Future Airport



Source: Webequie First Nation, 2019

8.2.1.1.3 Webequie Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)

A draft Webequie CCP was completed in January 2021 and was prepared over four years with Elders, community members, Webequie staff and leadership (Webequie First Nation, 2023). The purpose of the Webequie CCP is to lay out a roadmap for the future of the Webequie community and how to work together to achieve this vision. The CCP is the result of a community-led process, and complements the CBLUP and On-Reserve Land Use Plan, and is rooted in Webequie's Three-Tier governance model that supports reconciliation, rebuilding and healing. The roots of the Three-tier governance model come from the Webequie Anishininniwuk Elders. Before Treaty No. 9 was signed, they were able to see that change was imminent and created the Three-Tier model to maintain their relationship with the Creator. It offers a model for respectful relationships with neighbouring communities, government and industry (Webequie First Nation, 2023).

This document is a living document that will change and grow with the Webequie community. The land areas around the community that are inherent in the Three-Tier model include:

- Tier 1 – Tawin – Community Land Base: This is the home of Webequie people and where members live;
- Tier 2 – Tashiikawiin/Tashiiwiitoo – Protected Traditional Area: This is the area within a one-day walk (roughly 40-50 km radius) from the community. This area is used for traditional harvesting and Anishinabek cultural livelihood and supports who the Webequie people are; and
- Tier 3 – Bimachiiowiin Akkii – Area of Mutual Benefit: This is the area within another one-day walk and where Webequie people, neighbouring communities and outside parties can realize benefits from stewardship and development activities (Webequie First Nation, 2023).

To prepare the Webequie CCP, events and activities included one-on-one meetings and interviews, 8 community gatherings, 5 specific youth events, contests and a full week to focus on planning in Webequie (Webequie First Nation, 2023). The Webequie CCP outlines the history of the community; the current community resources, conditions and governance; and the plans moving forward to build a sustainable, prosperous community.

The CCP focused on 8 different areas within the community and goals were created under each theme:

- Education and training;
- Cultural Vibrancy and Traditional Life;
- Housing and Infrastructure;
- Environmental Quality and Relationship with the Land;
- Community Health and Wellness;
- Family and Social Conditions;
- Economic Development; and
- Community Leadership and Governance.

Each topic focused on the strengths and challenges of each and created goals related to the topic. To reach these goals, four action categories were created, depending on the type of project. The four action categories are: major capital projects, minor capital projects and community improvements, programs and plans and policies. The action categories also included timing of when to start certain projects or outline if they have already started and a monitoring and evaluating tracker. Detailed action items are also outlined within the document which specify steps required to address the issue, who needs to be involved and how they relate to the specific goals outlined in the Webequie CCP (Webequie First Nation, 2023).

8.2.1.2 Other Local Study Area Indigenous Communities

The Indigenous communities and groups whose land use plans are reviewed in the following subsections are among the Indigenous communities and groups that need to be consulted with as part of the WSR. The WSR does not go through their reserves, but they are part of the eight Indigenous communities and groups (including Webequie First Nation) within the LSA and have asserted shared territory with Webequie First Nation within the preliminary corridor of the WSR and who may experience the greatest Socio-Economic effects of the Project.

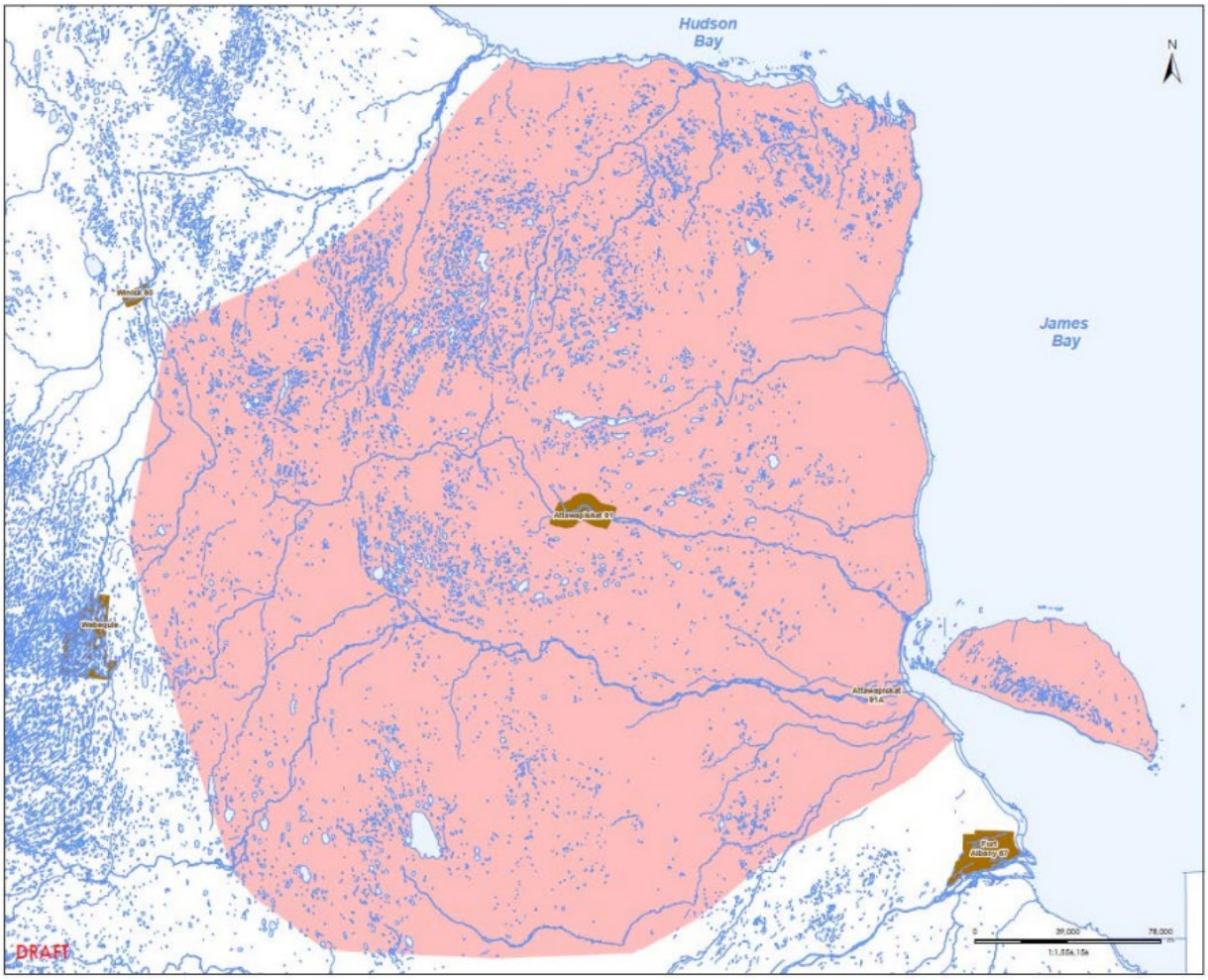
8.2.1.2.1 Attawapiskat First Nation

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Attawapiskat First Nation's CBLUP was completed 2015 under a community-led process (Attawapiskat First Nation, 2015). It outlines the community's valued components, proposed planning process and their guiding principles. The document reviews environmental and cultural issues, interconnectedness and economic development related to natural resources. The Planning area, shown on **Figure 8-12**, covers a land mass known as the community's traditional area that from Kapiskau River in the south, to Hudson Bay in the north, and westward along Hudson Bay towards the Winisik River, and from Akimiski Island in the east to Lake Missisa in the west (Attawapiskat First Nation, 2015).

Figure 8-12 below presents the limits of the Attawapiskat First Nation traditional land, recognizing that traditional territories associated with adjacent First Nations may overlap with these boundaries. The planning principles within the ToR for the CBLUP consist of:

- Cultural and heritage values;
- Biodiversity;
- Cumulative effects of land use activities;
- Climate change;
- Areas of natural resource value for economic development;
- Infrastructure;
- Tourism; and
- Protected areas.

Figure 8-12: Attawapiskat First Nation ToR AIP



Source: Attawapiskat First Nation, 2015.

8.2.1.2.2 Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nation

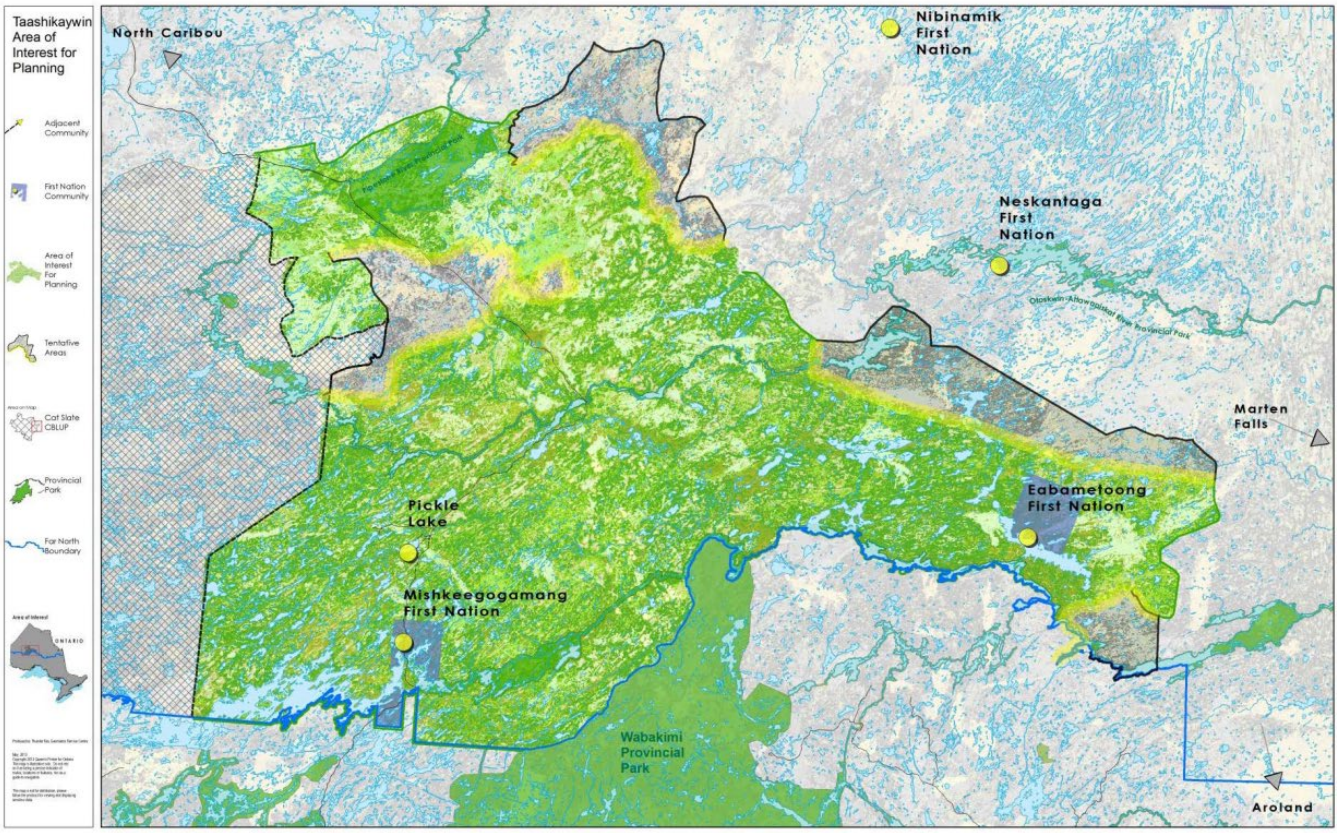
The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations CBLUP was signed in July 2013 (Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations and MNR, 2013). The ToR is intended to guide the CBLUP process to identify and outline the community's values and objectives for land use planning. Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang have identified an AIP that encompasses an area of 2,487,752 ha, as shown on **Figure 8-13**. This AIP is defined by Eabametoong First Nation and Mishkeegogamang First Nation. This area represents the traditional land use area that is bordered primarily by the Albany River on the south and approximately along the height of land of the Attawapiskat watershed on the north. This area is southwest of the project footprint for WSR. Traditional harvest areas have been used to help define the boundaries of the planning area. The ToR outlines that the CBLUP will address the following land uses:

- Traditional and customary land use;
- Conservation and protection of land;
- Forest management;
- Tourism;
- Mineral sector;
- Recreation;

- Water conservation;
- Renewable energy;
- Access and infrastructure;
- Climate change; and
- Fire management.

Eabametoong First Nation and Mishkeegogamang First Nation describe their traditional use territory as Tassshikaywin, which means “our places on the Earth and in nature’s realm” (Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations and MNR, 2013), in which is incorporated into the CBLUP planning initiative.

Figure 8-13: Eabametoong First Nation and Mishkeegogamang First Nation Taashikaywin ToR AIP



Source: Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations and MNR, 2013

8.2.1.2.3 Kasabonika Lake First Nation

Little information is publicly available about this community’s documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.1.2.4 Marten Falls First Nation

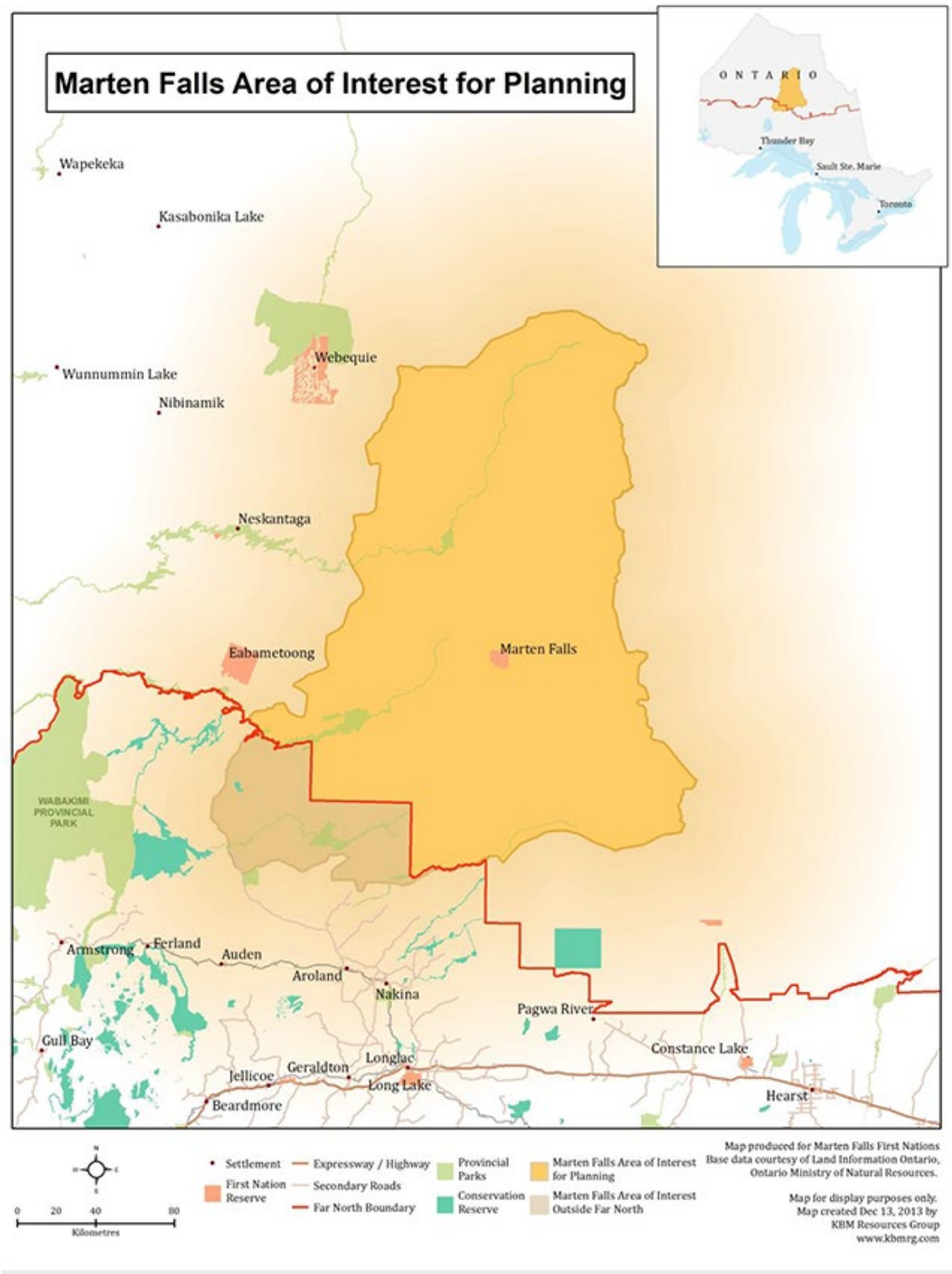
In 2013, Marten Falls First Nation’s ToR was made public for their CBLUP (Marten Falls First Nation and MNR, 2013). Marten Falls First Nation is developing a Draft CBLUP to address environmental and cultural issues, and to identify and plan Socio-Economic development strategies with the growing economic and resource development activities within Marten Falls’ historical traditional lands and waterways. Marten Falls First Nation has identified an AIP that encompasses an area of 4,265,385 ha, as shown on **Figure 8-14**. Marten Falls First Nation respects adjacent

communities' shared uses and interests within the AIP. The CBLUP will include direction for existing and potential land uses and resource-based opportunities within the AIP. The ToR outlines that the CBLUP will address the following land uses (Marten Falls First Nation and MNR, 2013):

- Historical and contemporary indigenous use;
- Protection/conservation/protected areas;
- Forestry, including non-timber forest products;
- Geoscience and the mineral sector;
- Renewable energy;
- Recreation;
- Tourism;
- Infrastructure;
- Water and Waterway use;
- Climate change mitigation and adaption;
- Fish and wildlife management; and
- Fire management.

To-date, the CBLUP has not been released publicly and information therein has not been reviewed.

Figure 8-14: Marten Falls First Nation ToR AIP



Source: Marten Falls First Nation and MNR, 2013.

8.2.1.2.5 Neskantaga First Nation

The Webequie Draft CBLUP (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025) mentions shared area and shared planning interests amongst the two communities. With close family connections and shared common history and traditional use of lands and resources in the area, planning in areas known to be shared with Neskantaga First Nation requires ongoing discussions with the communities (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

Little information is publicly available about Neskantanga First Nation documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.1.2.6 Nibinamik First Nation

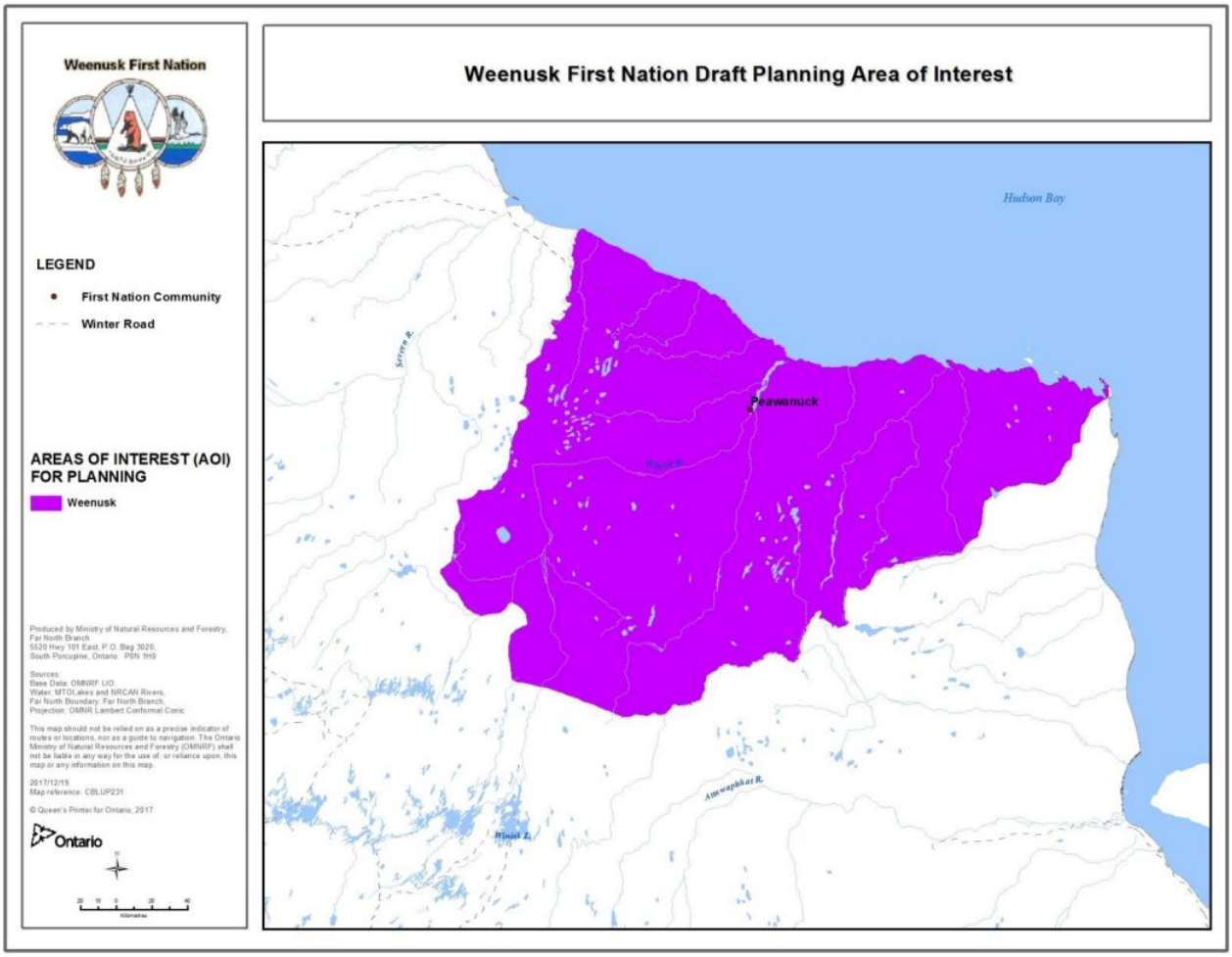
Little information is publicly available about these documented plans for land use (if any exist) for Nibinamik First Nation; however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.1.2.7 Weenusk First Nation

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the, Weenusk First Nation's CBLUP was made public in 2017 (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). Weenusk First Nation has identified an AIP. This preliminary area has been drawn based on an understanding of historical and traditional use. The Weenusk First Nation AIP is 5,302,486.87 ha in size as shown on **Figure 8-15** (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017). The land use plan will not alter traditional understandings and relationships to the land with adjacent communities. The CBLUP will inform decisions on proposal for land and resource use. The ToR outlines that the CBLUP will address the following land uses (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017):

- Indigenous traditional knowledge;
- Protected areas;
- Waterways;
- Fish, wildlife and plants;
- Mineral resources;
- Oil and natural gas;
- Forestry;
- Non timber forest products;
- Tourism and recreation;
- All season roads and infrastructure;
- Renewable Energy; and
- Climate change.

Figure 8-15: Weenusk First Nation ToR AIP



Source: Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017.

8.2.2 Regional Study Area

Communities described in the RSA include both Indigenous communities that are fly-in and also those connected to the provincial highway system, as well as municipalities that provide services to Indigenous communities in northern Ontario due to their relative proximity. The information encompasses various stages of planning initiatives, from those with established ToR for CBLUP to those with limited available information. Additionally, the role of provincial legislation, such as planning acts and policies, is highlighted in shaping land use decisions while respecting Indigenous rights. The following sections delve into the details of these initiatives and their implications.

8.2.2.1 Indigenous Communities

This section provides insights into the land use planning activities and priorities of various Indigenous communities within the study area. Although limited information is publicly available about their specific plans for land use, ongoing dialogue with these communities aims to gather more insights with their permission, which will then be considered as part of ongoing Project planning processes. Notably, some communities have initiated land use planning efforts, and this section outlines their respective ToR and key focus areas. These details contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the diverse perspectives and priorities of these Indigenous communities in relation to land use and development within the study area.

8.2.2.1.1 Aroland First Nation

Little information is publicly available about this community's documented plans for land use; however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

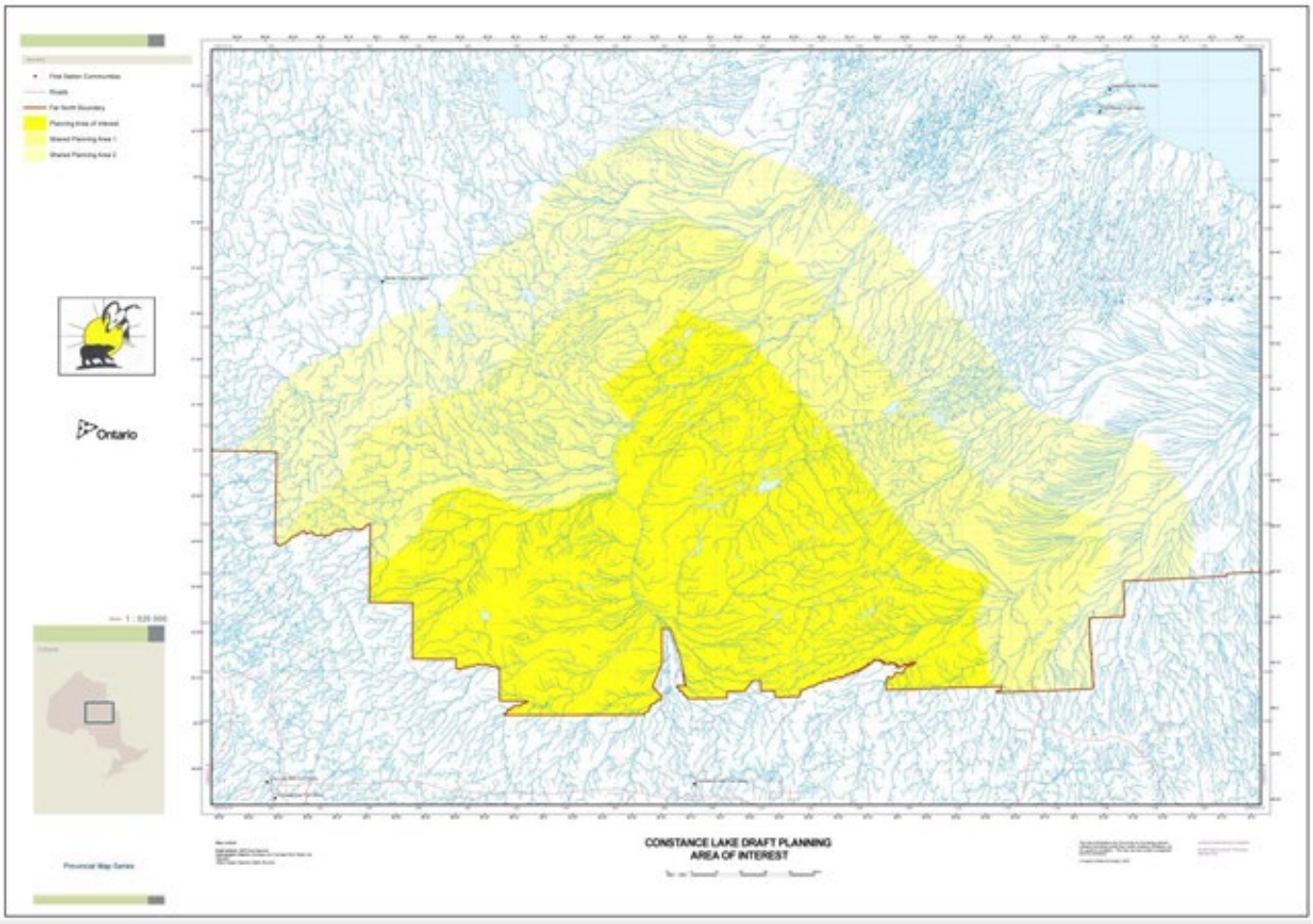
8.2.2.1.2 Constance Lake First Nation

The ToR for Constance Lake First Nation CBLUP was signed in 2014 (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021b). It outlines the community's valued components, proposed planning process and their guiding principles. The Planning area covers the area where Constance Lake First Nation has past and present connection with the land and water of its traditional territory, as shown on **Figure 8-16**. The planning principles within the ToR for the CBLUP consist of (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021b):

- Cultural and heritage values;
- Mineral Development;
- Protected areas;
- Aggregates;
- Waterways & waterbodies;
- Commercial forestry;
- Non-Timber forest products;
- Climate change adaption;
- Infrastructure;
- Tourism;
- Renewable energy; and
- Existing uses.

To-date, the CBLUP has not been released publicly, and information therein has not been reviewed.

Figure 8-16: Constance Lake First Nation Area Draft AIP



Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021b.

8.2.2.1.3 Fort Albany First Nation

In 2008, a thesis paper included interviews of Fort Albany First Nations community members to discuss a framework for a CBLUP and review valued components that could be included in a future CBLUP (Minkin, 2008). These included:

- Food resources;
- Travel routes;
- Water resources;
- Economic Development and Revenue;
- Fur and Traplines;
- Forest and Timber Resources; and
- Recreation.

Little information is publicly available about this community's documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.2.1.4 Ginoogaming First Nation

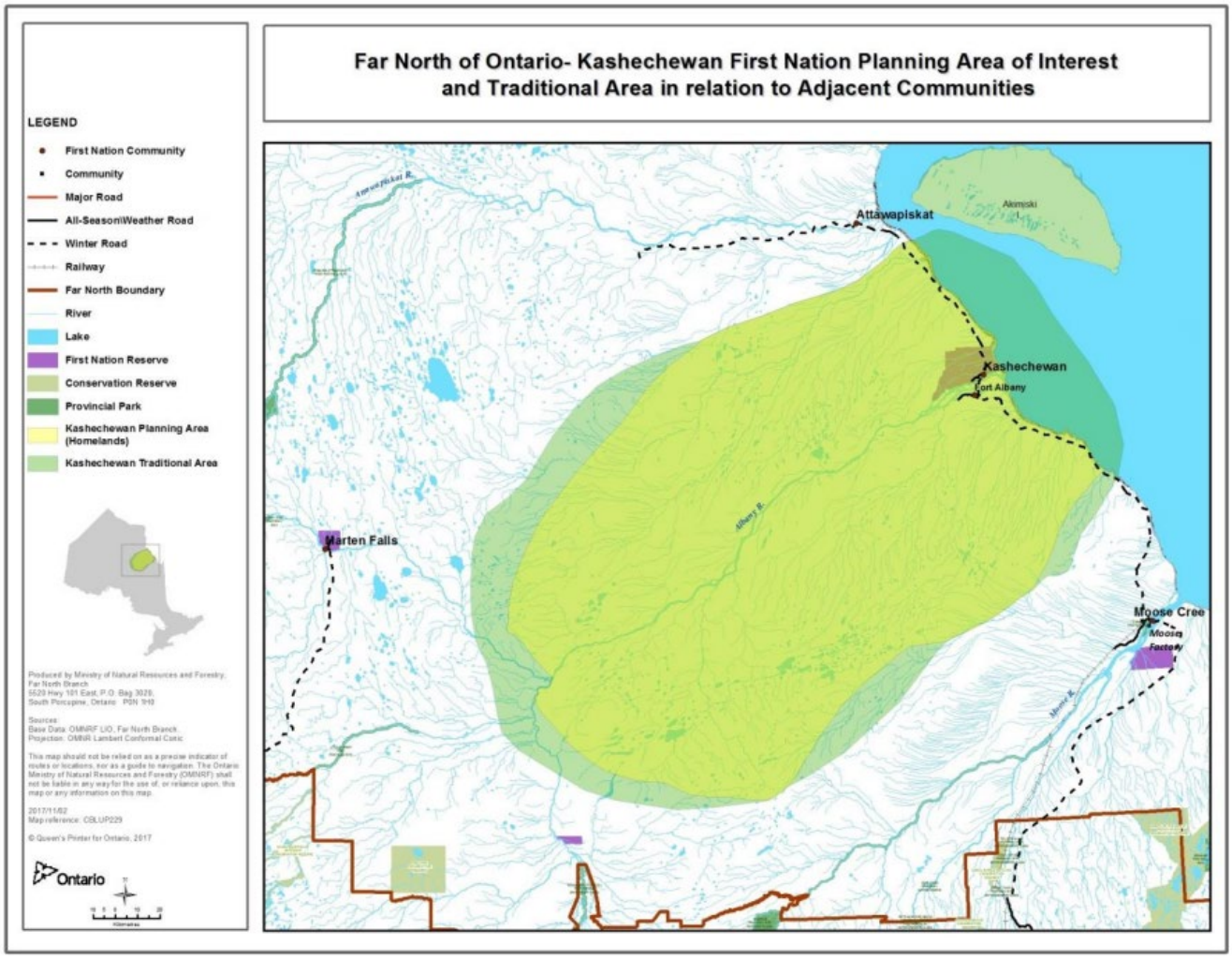
Little information is publicly available about this community's documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.2.1.5 Kashechewan First Nation

The ToR for Kashechewan First Nation CBLUP was signed in December 2017 (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021c). The ToR is intended to guide the CBLUP which outlines the community's values and objectives for land use planning. Kashechewan First Nation identified an AIP that encompasses an area of 3,913,637 ha (see **Figure 8-17**) and is to the east of the project footprint of WSR. This AIP is defined by Kashechewan First Nation (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021c). The ToR outlines that the CBLUP will address the following land uses:

- Culture and Heritage Areas;
- Geoscience and Mineral Development;
- Protected Areas;
- Aggregates;
- Waterways;
- Forestry;
- Non-Timber Forest Products;
- Climate Change;
- Infrastructure;
- Tourism;
- Renewable Energy;
- Existing Uses;
- Oil and Gas;
- Peat/carbon sequestration;
- Horticulture; and
- Wildlife and Plants.

Figure 8-17: Kashechewan First Nation ToR AIP



Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021c

8.2.2.1.6 Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation has outlined a Watershed Declaration which relates to their land use: “We declare all waters that flow into and out of Big Trout Lake and all lands whose waters flow into the lake, rivers and wetlands, to be completely protected through our continued care under Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug’s authority, laws and protocols. No industrial uses, or other uses which disrupt, poison, or otherwise harm our relationship to these lands and waters will be permitted. At all times the use of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug lands and waters, and any related decision-making, will be subject to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug’s free, prior, and informed consent following Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug laws and processes” (CPAWS Wildlands League, 2013).

Little information is publicly available about this community’s documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.2.1.7 Kingfisher Lake First Nation

Little information is publicly available about this community’s documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.2.1.8 Long Lake #58 First Nation

Long Lake #58 First Nation ratified a land code in November 2017 under the First Nation Land Management Act. The Land Code provides Long Lake #58 First Nation members more decision-making power over reserve land and Chief and Council can review “zoning, by-laws, land management, revenue responsibility, amendments, who can make laws, how new laws can be enacted and published, conflict of interest rules, community approvals, and dispute resolution processes (Long Lake #58 First Nation, 2023). No CBLUP TOR has been reviewed for Long Lake #58 First Nation to date.

Little information is publicly available about this community’s documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.2.1.9 Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2

Métis Nation of Ontario has recommended a province wide Métis Traditional Land Use or Métis Way of Life Framework to collect Métis traditional knowledge and help gain a better understanding of Métis interests, rights, harvesting patterns, and land use. The Métis Way of Life Framework approach has been implemented through numerous Métis Nation of Ontario led studies to document traditional use of lands and resources as part of EA/IA processes throughout Ontario, including in the RSA of the Project. These studies are typically not publicly available.

8.2.2.1.10 North Caribou Lake First Nation

Little information is publicly available about this community’s documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.2.1.11 Wapekeka First Nation

Little information is publicly available about this community’s documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

8.2.2.1.12 Wunnumin Lake First Nation

Little information is publicly available about this community’s documented plans for land use (if any exist); however, as information becomes available through dialogue with the community, with permission from the community, information will be considered as part of ongoing Project planning.

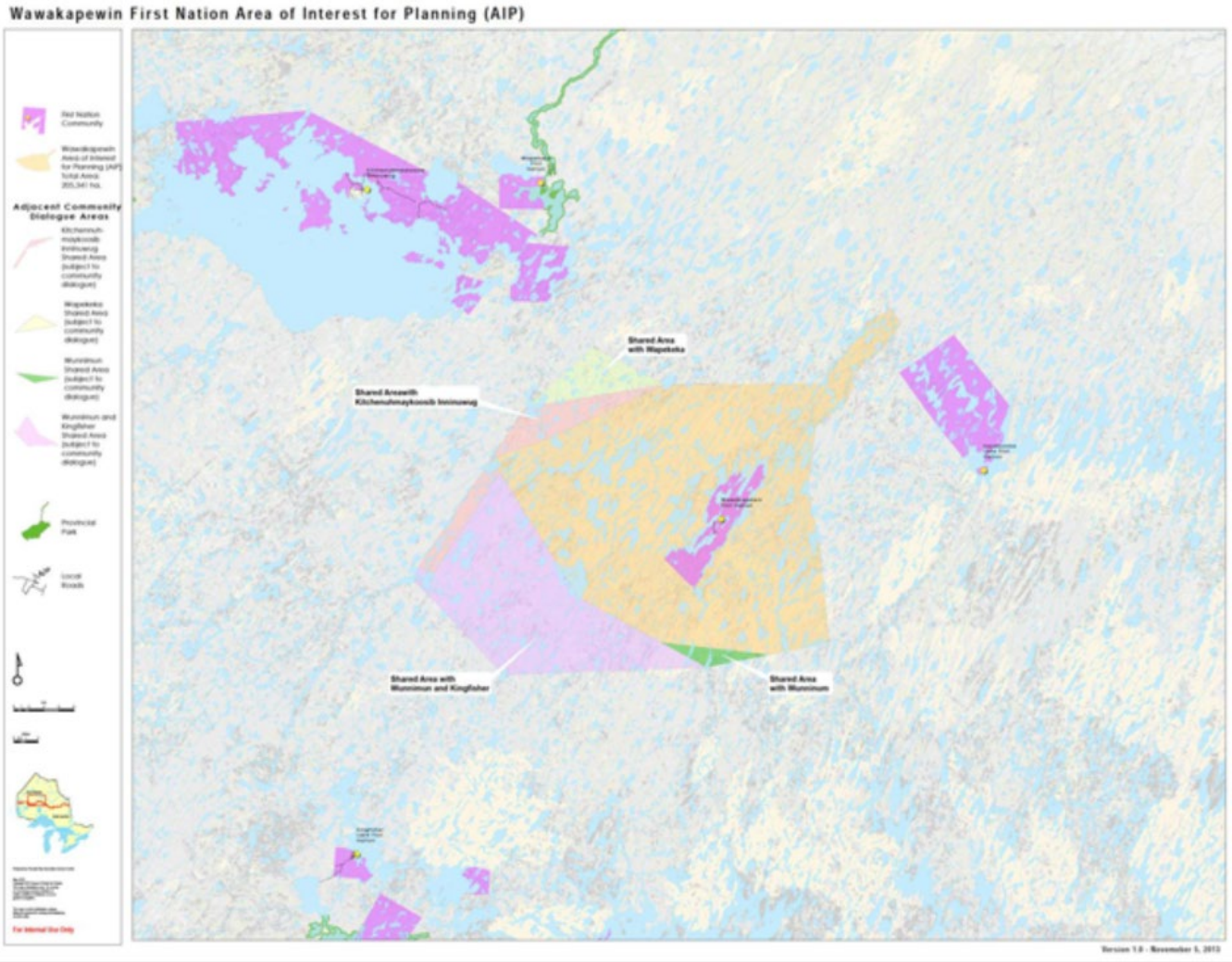
8.2.2.1.13 Wawakapewin First Nation

In 2014, Wawakapewin First Nation’s ToR was made public for their CBLUP (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2023c). Wawakapewin First Nation has identified an AIP. This preliminary area has been drawn based on an understanding of historical and traditional use. The Wawakapewin First Nation AIP is 205,514 ha in size (see **Figure 8-18**). The CBLUP will inform decisions on proposal for land and resource use. The ToR outlines that the CBLUP will address the following land uses (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2023c):

- Traditional use;
- Tourism and eco-tourism;
- Climate change and adaptation;
- Protection for culturally sensitive sites;
- Protection for the environment (plants, animals, waterways, source water, species at risk, landscape features);
- Mineral exploration and mining;

- Forestry including non timber forest products;
- Recreation; and
- Infrastructure considerations.

Figure 8-18: Wawakapewin First Nation ToR AIP



Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2023c.

8.2.2.2 Municipalities, Cities and Townships

The Project RSA overlaps with many municipalities, cities, and townships. **Table 8-3** lists municipalities, cities and townships included in the RSA (refer to **Figure 2-1**).

Table 8-3: Municipalities, Cities and Township Size and Distance from Project Area

Community	Boundaries	District	Approximate Size (km^2)[47]	Approximate Distance (km) from Project Area
Township of Pickle Lake	Township Boundaries	Kenora District	247	250
Municipality of Sioux Lookout	Municipal Boundaries	Kenora District	378	443
Thunder Bay Census Metropolitan Area	Census Metropolitan Area boundaries	Thunder Bay District	2,550	500
Municipality of Greenstone	Municipal Boundaries	Thunder Bay District	2,727	365
City of Timmins	City boundaries	Cochrane District	2,955	655

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022a

A municipal Official Plan (OP) is a statutory document approved by Council that outlines how land in a community should be used and verify that future planning and development meets the needs of the specific community. It includes input from the community and lays out a foundation for the community. Topics within an OP include current and future land use designations, transportation issues, how the community will grow, new infrastructure and how the plan will be implemented. OP's must "be consistent with the PPS under the *Planning Act* and conform or not conflict with any applicable principal plans" (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2019).

The Project Footprint and LSA do not overlap with any of the Municipal OPs including Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay Greenstone, Pickle Lake and Timmins.

8.2.2.2.1 Township of Pickle Lake

The Township of Pickle Lake is comprised of approximately 400 residents and approximately 250 km from Webequie (Statistics Canada, 2022b). Approximately 55% of the population in the 2021 census identified as Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2022b). A draft of the Pickle Lake OP was prepared in October 2021. The Township is in an area where the economy has developed around natural resources, specifically the mining industry. Areas that the community will be focusing on for economic growth include eco-tourism and recreational residential opportunities. The OP states that a strong and diversified economy is one that does not solely depend on the boom-and-bust economy of mining. The other areas that the community would like to focus on include tourism, transportation, distribution, and wholesale services (Hynde, Paul Associates Incorporated, 2000).

8.2.2.2.2 Municipality of Sioux Lookout

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is comprised of approximately 5,800 residents and covers 536 km^2 and is served by an airport that connects to 29 remote northern communities, several of which are LSA and RSA First Nation communities (refer to Table 5-96). Approximately 36% of the population in the 2021 census identified as Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2022c). The rail corridor through Sioux Lookout connects Winnipeg and Toronto through Via Rail Passenger service and the second busiest airport in northwestern Ontario (Sioux Lookout Official Plan, 2019). The airport provides flight services to following destinations:

[47] Statistics Canada https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=9810000203&geocode=A000235

Thunder Bay International Airport, Kasabonika Airport, Red Lake Airport, Sandy Lake Airport, Pikangikum Airport, Fort Frances Municipal Airport, Big Trout Lake Airport, Winnipeg International Airport, Kenora Airport, Wunnumin Lake Airport, Pickle Lake Airport, Cat Lake Airport, Dryden Regional Airport, Round Lake Airport, Sachigo Lake Airport, Deer Lake Airport, Fort Severn Airport, Muskrat Dam Airport, North Spirit Lake Airport, Fort Hope Airport, Geraldton Greenstone Regional Airport, Toronto City Billy Bishop Airport, Kingfisher Lake Airport, Bearskin Lake Airport, Kashechewan Airport, Poplar Hill Airport, Summer Beaver Airport, Earlton YXR, Armstrong Airport and Moosonee Airport out of which Kasabonika airport is located in the LSA and Wunnumin Lake airport is located in the RSA (Airportia, 2025).

The service sector has experienced growth given its close relationship with northern Ontario Indigenous communities and groups. Commercial First Nation and government agencies will continue to grow to meet the needs of this growing service centre (Sioux Lookout Official Plan, 2019).

The OP for Sioux Lookout was adopted November 21, 2018, and has been in effect as of July 11, 2019. The Sioux Lookout OP lays out the strategic vision of the municipality which is based on eight guiding principles through to 2038. These principles revolve around accessibility, sustainability, economic growth and community and Indigenous engagement. Sioux Lookout is strategically positioned as the “Hub of the North” and the economy will continue to grow within this region and includes a diverse economy that includes forestry, mining, tourism, transportation, health care, construction, and social services.

8.2.2.2.3 City of Thunder Bay

The City of Thunder Bay is comprised of approximately 108,000 residents and approximately 500 km south of Webequie (Statistic Canada, 2022d). Approximately 14% of the population in the 2021 census identified as Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2022e). The OP for Thunder Bay was adopted on April 30, 2018, and Modified by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on March 11, 2019 (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2019). The plan lays out the City’s goals for sustainable development and guides the community in their land use planning decision. Thunder Bay’s economy is expected to grow in the future and outlines the overarching policies for development within the City. General goals related to land use include minimizing conflict between incompatible land uses, protecting and preserving the natural environment and promoting a multi-modal transportation system. Part 3 of the OP recognizes that mineral exploration and mining activity exists within the area and that the City would like to support ways to minimize negative impacts on surrounding land uses and the natural environment (City of Thunder Bay, 2019).

8.2.2.2.4 Municipality of Greenstone

The Municipality of Greenstone is comprised of approximately 4,300 residents and approximately 356 km from Webequie. Approximately 33% of the population in the 2021 census identified as Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2022f). The OP acknowledges under Sections 1.4 and 1.5, the need to develop the local economic base with provincial objectives, which includes mining operations in the Ring of Fire and local mining developments and the possible indirect benefits to the community. The municipality will work collaboratively with the mining industry and Indigenous communities to facilitate the development of the Ring of Fire and local mining developments (Municipality of Greenstone, 2022). In January 2025, the province committed to supporting transmission and road infrastructure in the Aroland–Greenstone area, recognizing it as a strategic “gateway” for developing the Ring of Fire (Ross, I., 2025).

The Ring of Fire development are expected to offset population declines, and Greenstone is projecting that growth in the municipality would increase with the development of mining projects within the area. Additional housing would be required for the growth in the area and the OP outlines it needs to secure an adequate supply of housing and land are available to accommodate this population growth. In Section 3.9 of the OP indicated that the settlement areas of Greenstone Municipality will be the focus of the residential and employment growth, and these areas will continue to be developed by optimizing the use of available infrastructure (including road and other utilities) while measures will be provided to encourage active transportation. Meanwhile, as growth of the Ring-of-Fire may necessitate an expansion to

the settlement areas boundaries, it is not anticipated within the life of the current OP (Municipality of Greenstone Official Plan, 2022).

8.2.2.2.5 City of Timmins

The City of Timmins is comprised of approximately 41,100 residents and approximately 655 km from Webequie. Approximately 15% of the population in the 2021 census identified as Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2022g). The OP came into force on August 10, 2010. Neither of the schedules within the OP for transportation or land use designation would include the immediate Project Footprint as part of their jurisdiction, but the City is in consultation with the WSR team as part of the regional study area. The OP notes that its growth will come from supporting the natural resource-based sector and encouraging manufacturing opportunities particularly as they relate to mining and forestry. The OP also stated that the City is interested in fostering collaborative efforts with First Nation and Métis communities as they relate to economic tourism development and eco-tourism (City of Timmins, 2010).

8.3 Commercial and Industrial Land Use

The economy of northern Ontario relies heavily on resource extraction, with the mining, aggregate and forestry industries significant factors in in the region. The “Ring of Fire” is a significant mineral deposit that has potential to contribute to the Ontario economy (Ministry of Mines, 2022). These contributions include creating more jobs, generating revenue, building infrastructure, and bringing prosperity to communities to the north, including First Nation communities.

In 2023, mining in Ontario generated $15.7 billion worth of minerals, which contributed $12.9 billion to Ontario’s GDP (Ministry of Mines, 2025). GDP is the gross domestic product, or the value of the goods produced, and services provided in a region over one year. Ontario’s GDP in 2023 was $1.12 trillion (Ministry of Finance, 2025), of which the mining sector contributed 1.2%.

Ontario established the Critical Minerals Strategy in 2021, which is a comprehensive five-year plan to secure the province’s position as a reliable global supplier of responsibly sourced critical minerals (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022h). Critical minerals have industrial, technological or strategic applications and are also currently at a higher supply risk due to geopolitical considerations and market demand (Ontario Mines Association, 2022). Minerals found in the Ring of Fire to date include chromite, copper, zinc, gold, diamond, nickel and platinum group elements (Ministry of Mines, 2022). The success of the Critical Minerals Strategy is dependent on six components, referred to as the six pillars in the strategy, which include:

1. Enhancing geoscience information and supporting critical mining exploration;
2. Growing domestic processing and creating resilient local supply chains;
3. Improving Ontario’s regulatory framework;
4. Investing in innovation, research and development;
5. Building economic development opportunities with Indigenous partners; and
6. Growing labour supply and developing a skilled labour force.

Mining is regulated under the provisions of the provincial *Mining Act*. The purpose of the *Mining Act* is to “encourage prospecting, online mining claim registration and exploration for the development of mineral resources, in a manner consistent with the recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, including the duty to consult, and to minimize the impact of these activities on public health and safety and the environment” (Ministry of Mines, 2023). The Mining Lands Administrative System (MLAS) is the online program to register new mining claims or manage existing ones. Applicants are required to create a MLAS user account, which allows them to view active unpatented mining claims, register new mining claims, manage user mining claims, and buy or renew a prospector’s license.

The Government of Ontario is working directly with First Nations through bilateral agreements that support each First Nation community's needs and priorities (Ministry of Mines, 2022). Proposed all-season road projects in the Ring of Fire area are led by First Nation communities, which include project planning through EA/IAs, and maximizing benefits and opportunities for First Nations communities. This includes Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation leading the federal and provincial EA/IAs for the Marten Falls Community Access Road and Webequie Supply Road, respectively, as well as federal and provincial EA for Northern Road Link Project which is jointly led by both communities (Ministry of Mines, 2022b; Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, 2024).

Ontario developed a resource sharing agreement(s) to demonstrate the commitment to reconciliation and support economic development opportunities to build healthy and prosperous communities across Ontario's north (Ministry of Mines, 2022). This agreement allows an Indigenous community to share in the economic benefits of industrial development and operations near their communities. First Nations can use this financial benefit for economic development, education, health, community development, and cultural development. There are currently 35 Indigenous communities involved in the revenue resource sharing agreement with Ontario (Government of Ontario, 2024). Only two of the 35 First Nations communities who have revenue resource sharing agreements with Ontario are in the Project's RSA (Fort Albany and Kashechewan First Nations).

The Aboriginal Participation Fund was developed as part of the *Mining Act* and regulations to enable the participation of First Nations in the mining processes and economic opportunities in the sector. It provides $4.7M annually to support First Nations communities to participate in consultations and foster education and relationship-building activities related to mineral exploration and development (Ontario Mining Association, 2022).

In April 2023, ten First Nations under Treaty No. 9 announced a lawsuit against the Ontario and federal governments regarding their right to govern their territorial lands (and waters), arguing that resource extraction has infringed upon their jurisdiction for over a century (McIntosh, 2023). The ten communities are Attawapiskat First Nation, Apitipi Anicinapek Nation, Aroland First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation. A "co-jurisdiction" approach is one aspect of the litigation announcement, that the ten First Nations in Treaty No. 9 do not ascribe to the Crown's existing framework of decision making, approvals, prohibitions and policies (Pratt & Langlois, 2023). Treaty No. 9. Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Chief Donny Morris said in a statement "[w]e are putting Ontario and Canada on notice. "No more development – mining, forestry, hydro or any other similar activities without our consent" (McIntosh, 2023).

The draft statement of claim mentions the objectives of Indigenous Signatories to the Treaty intended "to preserve bimaadiziwin in Ojibwe or pimaatisiium in Cree – happiness, prosperity, and protection of their traditional way of life" (APTN News, 2023). Mino-Bimaadiziwin translates to "*into living a complete, healthy, and good life*" which represents an Indigenous philosophy for a way of living (Thomas, 2020). Some of the key principles of Mino-Bimaadiziwin are to maintain a sacred relationship with all elements of creation including, trees, fish, birds, animals, water, plants, people, and everything else provided by the Creator, and to live in harmony and coexistence. Mino-Bimaadiziwin and other Indigenous laws represent Indigenous identity, outlining the roles, duties, and obligations of being a member of an Indigenous Nation (Thomas, 2020).

Aggregates include sand, gravel and bedrock that are typically used in construction projects. Aggregate resources are regulated under the *Aggregate Resources Act*. Aggregate extraction on Crown land requires an Aggregate Permit and on private land it requires an Aggregate License if it is within an Aggregate Designated Area (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022a).

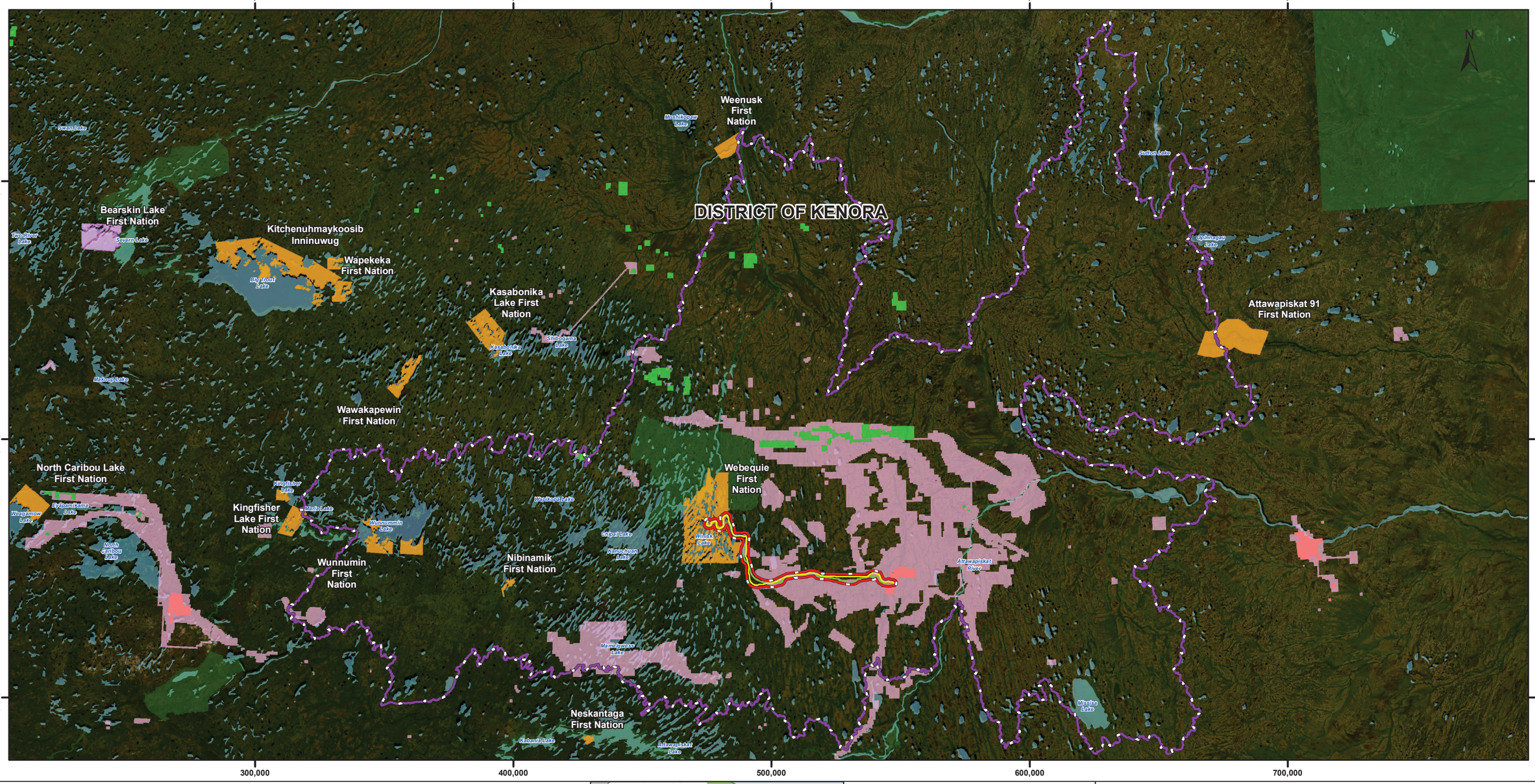
The forestry industry in northern Ontario is primarily located within the Districts of Kenora, Thunder Bay and Cochrane as it is surrounded by the Boreal Forest (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022g). Ontario manages forests on Crown lands within the forestry management planning area for the province ("the area of the undertaking") under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994, which covers approximately 70.5 million ha of forest, or 66 % of the province.

The *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* enables the regulation of forest planning, operations, licensing, processing, and enforcement related to the forestry industry in this area. Ontario's managed forests are divided into Forest Management Units (FMU) which are designated administrative areas that issue specific sustainable forestry licences to forestry companies. Each FMU has its own sustainable Forest Management Plan (FMP) for 10 or 20 years.

The Project's LSA and RSA for the EA/IA do not fall within the Ontario's Crown Forest Management Units.

Fishing is another commercial activity that has taken place in northern Ontario, which is regulated by the province following fish management zones (FMZ).

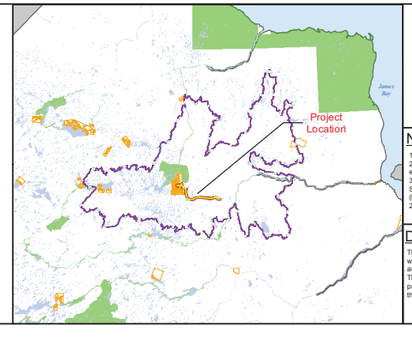
Business activities are included in this section to identify the existing activities that may be affected by the Project.



Legend

Route Label

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3 (Preferred Route)
- Land and Resource Use Local Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Regional Study Area
- First Nation Reserve – Engaged in the Project
- First Nation Reserve
- Mining Land Tenure
- Active Mine Claim
- Hold Special Circumstances Apply
- Waterbody
- Provincial Park



WSR
WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Download Date : 2021-02-04

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0 55 110 Km

Webequie Supply Road (WSR)

Mine Claims in the Land and Resource Use Local Study Area and Regional Study Area

Figure Number:		REV:	
8.19		PA	
Client:	**Project Number:**	**Date:**	
Webequie First Nation	661910	2/26/2024	
DSC	**DRN**	**CHK**	**APP**
	AD	AL	VS

SIZE 11 X 17

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

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SIZE 11x17

SIZE 11x17

200,000 300,000 400,000 500,000 600,000 700,000 800,000

6,000,000 5,900,000 5,800,000

N

DISTRICT OF KENORA

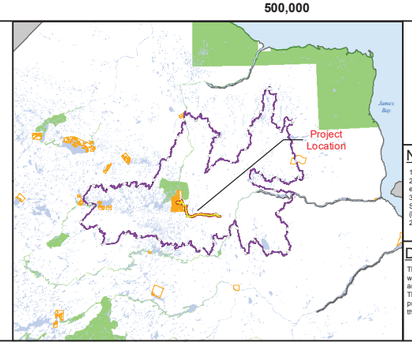
Weenusk First Nation
Bearskin Lake First Nation
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
Wapekeka First Nation
Kasabonika Lake First Nation
Wawakapewin First Nation
Muskrat Dam Lake First Nation
North Caribou Lake First Nation
Kingfisher Lake First Nation
Wunnumin First Nation
Nibinamik First Nation
Webequie First Nation
Neskantaga First Nation
Attawapiskat 91 First Nation
Attawapiskat First Nation

Swan Lake
Two River Lake
Severn Lake
Big Trout Lake
Muskrat Dam Lake
McKoop Lake
Kasabonika Lake
Shibogama Lake
Magias Lake
Wapanmow Lake
Eyapamihana Lake
North Caribou Lake
Kingfisher Lake
Murray Lake
Wunnumin Lake
Wapkinos Lake
Ghipil Lake
Kanuchinan Lake
Webequie Lake
Attawapiskat River
Sutton Lake
Opinnagau Lake
Winisk Lake
Winisk River
Mesabe Lake
Mamigwess Lake
Attawapiskat Lake
Kabania Lake
Ozhiski Lake
Albany River
Windigo Lake
Upper Windigo Lake

Legend

Route Label

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3 (Preferred Route)
- Land and Resource Use Local Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Regional Study Area
- First Nation Reserve – Engaged in the Project
- First Nation Reserve
- Waterbody
- Provincial Park
- Potential Aggregate/Rock Source Areas
- Small Deposit/Bedrock Outcrop - Unable to show based on map scale



WSR WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Download Date : 2021-02-04

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0 60 120 Km

Webequie Supply Road (WSR)

Potential Aggregate Resources in the Local Study Area and Regional Study Area

Figure Number:	8.20	REV:	PA
Client: Webequie First Nation	Project Number: 661910	Date: 2/26/2024	
DSC		DRN: AD	CHK: AL / APP: VS

SIZE 11 X 17 Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Document Path: \\tor01\PROJECTS\E&W\Projects\661910 - Webequie First Nation Supply Rd\40_Execution\45_GIS_Dwgs\MXD\Socioeconomic\661910_WSR_SOC_BL_PotentialAggregate_0001_0003.mxd

8.3.1 Local Study Area

The economy of northern Ontario relies on resource extraction, with mining, aggregate, and forestry industries playing pivotal roles in the region. While the Ring of Fire offers potential for long-term economic growth, recent Indigenous-led legal actions underscore the need for balance between resource exploitation and traditional way of life. Ontario's Critical Minerals Strategy, collaboration with Indigenous communities, and sustainable resource management are key elements shaping the region's economic and environmental future. As depicted in **Figure 8-19**, the eastern portion of the Project's alternative routes within the Project Footprint and LSA coincide with mining claims and tenure. Notably, despite this overlap, there are no active mining developments within the LSA. This section provides insights into the status of active, pending, and abandoned Mine Claims in both the LSA and Project Footprint for each alternative route. It also includes potential aggregate resources and land use for forestry activities within the LSA.

8.3.1.1 Mining

Table 8-4 outlines mining activity in the LSA including active, pending, and abandoned mining claims. There are 649 active mining claims within the LSA. Additionally, there are over 100 active mining claims that are transected by the Project Footprint for each alternative. The LSA also overlaps with one mining land tenure (total area: 854.8 ha) located near the eastern portion of the LSA (**Figure 8-19**).

Table 8-4: Active, Pending and Abandoned Mine Claims in the Local Study Area and Project Footprint for each Alternative

Type of Extraction Industry Land and Resource Use	Feature	Number Overlapped by the LSA	Number Overlapped by the Project Footprint		
			Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3
Mining	Active mining claims (number)	649	107	131	128
	Active mining claims (area)	10,570.9 ha	129	158	162
	Active Abandonment Pending mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Abandoned Mine Sites	0	0	0	0
	Active Pending mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Active Pending Proceedings mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Active Pending Transfer mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Hold mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Hold Pending Extension of Time mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Requested for lease Mining Claims	0	0	0	0
	Mining land tenure (number)	1	1	1	1
	Mining land tenure (area)	855.9 ha	9.3 ha	10.2 ha	11.4 ha

Source: Land Information Ontario, 2022.

8.3.1.2 Aggregates

The Project Footprint and LSA overlaps with areas containing metamorphic and igneous rock, glaciofluvial ice-contact deposits, and fluvial deposits. **Figure 8-20** shows potential aggregate resources in the LSA and RSA. There are 25 existing aggregate deposits that cover an area of 267 ha in the LSA.

8.3.1.3 Forestry

Forestry is not a commercial activity for the community apart from firewood collection (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). In the 1970s there was a government investment in sawmills in Webequie and Eabametoong to feed demand for lumber to supply home building, and as a means to create sustainable jobs. The sawmills did not succeed for several reasons including lack of profitability and management issues (Driben, 1983).

The Project's LSA and RSA for the EA/IA do not fall within the Ontario's Crown Forest Management Units.

Forestry is a potential ventured identified by Webequie First Nation for community-led commercial forestry across their traditional territory. Directions identified in the Webequie draft CBLUP included partnerships with neighbouring First Nations and other parties, small-scale enterprise for community or regional needs and other activities to support this area of development. Further analysis may be required to determine feasible options in tandem with MNRF policy and cooperation. Pursuing forestry will include stewardship and traditional knowledge, appropriate to local resources, balances development with conservation and renewal, respects the values and ecological functions and existing uses by community members (Webequie First Nation, 2019a).

In May 2023, Ginoogaming First Nation obtained $300,000 funding via the 'Indigenous Forestry Initiative' under the Government of Canada to study and identify feasibility of an engineered-wood-product mill in the First Nation. The study will assess whether the project will benefit the community, whether it aligns with the 'Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy', feasibility of constructing an Oriented Strand Board (OSB) or Laminated Strand Lumber (LSL) mill. The feasibility study was expected to conclude in Summer 2023, (Matawa First Nations, 2023).

8.3.1.4 Fishing

Beginning in the 1960's Webequie First Nation members held commercial fishing licenses for whitefish, walleye and sturgeon (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). The last licences were held in the 1970's (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022f). Elders recall active commercial fishing operations during the 1960s and 1970s within Winisk, Chipai, Wapikopa and Kanachuan Lakes along with Winisk River (Webequie First Nation, 2019a). Currently, there are no commercial fishing operations in Webequie or the broader territory around the LSA and RSA due to the changing economy which made commercial fishing less viable. Low economic return, high transportation costs, reallocation of resources for other commercial opportunities, new legislation and marketing systems were outlined as barriers to the commercial fishing industry (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). The community is interested in re-establishing this tradition and seeking viable economic opportunities (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025).

The WSR project is located within FMZ 2 and 3 (MNR, 2023a). There are no monitoring reports for commercial fishing in these zones.

8.3.1.5 Commercial

8.3.1.5.1 Webequie Firs Nation

The Webequie Business Centre hosts the Northern store, post office, bank branch, and the Webequie motel, and Tikanigan services. Other commercial activities include a coffee shop, telecommunications, property management, heavy equipment service and radio station. Previous businesses included a sawmill in 1987, Simon Jacob store in 1940, Trapper Store, Kishebenaka Community Store, and Jackie's Video store (Webequie First Nation, 2023). Commercial fishing also took place in the winters prior to establishing the Webequie reserve. The Northern store retail outlet employs about ten people and sells groceries, fuel and household items through a mail order service. A community member operates a confectionary and there are about four "mom and pop" coffee shops operating out of homes.

Additional plans (Webequie First Nation, 2023) consider several opportunities and pursuits to catalyze commercial local activity:

- Catering services;
- Ecotourism services;
- Land based camps as education and training opportunities;
- Sawmill;
- Community gardens;
- Community-owned grocery store;
- Craft and arts cooperative;
- Online training and sales;
- Large equipment rentals such as boats and mining supplies;
- Garage and engine repair;
- Fuel/gas provider;
- Hide and fur store;
- Community business holding enterprise;
- Warehouse/storage;
- Office rental;
- Laundry and cleaning services;
- Resort and output camps; and
- Bakery.

Previous efforts that produced economic development plans in 2009 and in the 1980s (AtkinsRéalis, 2022, AtkinsRéalis, 2021). Over the decades, Webequie community members' previous work experiences in mining was short term, required new skills development and training and also required moving and living off-reserve. This contrasted with the sentiment that members wanted to "stay here because this is home for them and they want to work full time here" (AtkinsRéalis, 2022). Another interview shared concerns about employment related to mental health and addictions that impede job security and affect interest in local jobs in a sustainable way (AtkinsRéalis, 2022a).

The draft Webequie CBLUP considers commercial activities in the broader area of interest outside of the reserve on their territorial lands (refer to). It recognizes the historical development of commercial activities such as commercial fishing, trapping and tourism but seeks to align economic and industrial development opportunities in appropriate contexts that fit with the direction and vision for their community, community members and future generations.

8.3.1.5.2 Other First Nations in the LSA

Commercial activities in other First Nations in the LSA are included in **Table 8-5**.

Table 8-5: Commercial Activities in Indigenous Communities in the LSA

Indigenous Community	Commercial Activities
Attawapiskat First Nation	Several businesses located on-reserve were identified through online mapping sources and indicated 12 local businesses, including five retail, two hospitality, two food services, one transport, one health, one professional service. Attawapiskat Enterprises is a for-profit organization that is owned by members of Attawapiskat First Nation but operates separate from Council. It contributes to the Attawapiskat First Nation Community Trust and creates employment and identifies, negotiates and develops business and investment opportunities. It owns corporations in security, catering, cellular services, rentals, along with several joint ventures in industry, transportation, and professional services. In 2017, it

Indigenous Community	Commercial Activities
	received the Indigenous Business Award of Excellence from Northern Ontario Business Awards (Northern Ontario Business Awards, 2020). Attawapiskat also includes a Northern Store and warehouse. The 25-year lease for the Northern Store was set to expire in 2024, and is appealing for an additional 12-years. It employs 49 local employees. There was also interest and support for Attawapiskat Community Co-op to circulate money back into the community, and reflect the community's self-governance (Rutherford, 2024).
Eabametoong First Nation	Ozhiski Outpost is located within Eabametoong First Nation traditional territory (Steel, 2013). There are a few commercial businesses within the community which includes two grocery stores, an inn, video stores, White Clay North coffee shop, convenience stores, and postal services (211 Ontario North, 2024). Other local stores include Corny's Variety Store, White Clay North and Waboose Toys (Teach for Canada, 2017). Eabametoong has an airstrip located within Fort Hope with North Star and Wasaya flying to the community.
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	There is a Northern Store that is operated by North West Company. Kasabonika Hotel and Restaurant offers accommodation for tourists. Kasabonika Airport is located 1.9 km west of the community (Northwest Health Line, 2023b). Kasabonika Lake Community Development Corporation is an establishment managing and planning the local economic and development initiatives and opportunities, which has carried out several initiatives such as overseeing Northern store and Kasabonika Small Business Center, partnership on Wasaya Group Inc, joint ownership of Wataynikaneyap Power, infrastructure upgrades and assistance and training for employment and new businesses (211 Ontario North, 2024a).
Marten Falls First Nation	Marten Falls First nation has several commercial establishments. The community recently opened the Adawegamik community store (Northern Ontario Business, 2024). The community also has 51% ownership stake in the Thunder Bay based Bay Meats foodservice business (Marten Falls First Nation, N.D). Other businesses currently in the community include a gas station and retail outlet, private businesses, lodging business, and postal services (211 Ontario, 2024). Access to Marten Falls First Nation includes flights from Marten Falls Airport with Nakina Air (211 Ontario North, 2023e).
Neskantaga First Nation	Neskantaga First Nation sized a partnership with North Star Air Ltd cargo in 2014 and is a member of the Rapid Lynx Corporation with five other First Nations to provide internet services (211 Ontario, 2024a). North Star Air provides air travel to and from the community (North Star Air Ltd, 2023).
Nibinamik First Nation	Nibinamik First Nation includes a few private businesses including Summer Beaver Gas Service, Timmins Wabasse Convenience Store, Anik's Store and Nibinamik Fur Trading Co, and Northern Store (211 Ontario North, 2023f). Horley Lake Lodge offers visitors accommodations (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014b). While Nibinamik First Nation has an existing arena and community centre, they are in need of upgrading according to Nibinamik First Nation members Nibinamik First Nation, 2014c). Nibinamik airport is approximately 4.5 km from Nibinamik and Wasaya Airways operates here.
Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation	Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation has a Northern General Store and Louie's Store for general goods (211 Ontario, 2023). Weenusk First Nation is serviced by flights with Air Creebec and Thunder Airlines at Peawanuck airport.

8.3.2 Regional Study Area

This section includes an overview of active, pending, and abandoned mine claims identified within the RSA. The RSA overlaps with a large area of mining land tenure compared to the LSA. However, there are no active mining developments currently taking place within the RSA. This section also provides an overview of the potential aggregate resources and the land use for forestry activities within the RSA.

8.3.2.1 Mining

outlines mining activity in the RSA including active, pending, and abandoned mine claims. There are 27,973 active mining claims within the RSA. The RSA also overlaps with three mining land tenures (total area: 5381.65 ha).

Table 8-6: Active, Pending and Abandoned Mine Claims in the RSA and Project Footprint for each Route Alternative

Type of Extraction Industry Land and Resource Use	Feature	Number Overlapped by the RSA	Number Overlapped by the Project Footprint		
			Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3
Mining	Active mining claims (number)	27,973	107	131	128
	Active mining claims (area)	547,145.3 ha	129	158	162
	Active Abandonment Pending mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Abandoned Mine Sites	0	0	0	0
	Active Pending mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Active Pending Proceedings mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Active Pending Transfer mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Hold mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Hold Special Circumstances Apply	1597			
	Hold Pending Extension of Time mining claims	0	0	0	0
	Requested for lease Mining Claims	0	0	0	0
	Mining land tenure (number)	3	1	1	1
	Mining land tenure (area)	5,381.65 ha	9.27 ha	10.24 ha	11.37 ha

Source: Land Information Ontario, 2022

The crown land tenure and claim holders within the mineralized zone in the McFaulds Lake area includes the following entities (Webequie First Nation, 2020):

- Ring of Fire Metals (previously Noront Resources Ltd.);
- Macdonald Mines Exploration Ltd.;
- Canada Chrome Corporation;
- Abitibi Royalties Inc.;
- Metalex Ventures Ltd.;
- Aurcrest Gold Inc.;
- De Beers Canada Inc.;
- Fancamp Exploration Ltd.;
- Superior Exploration Ltd.;
- Debut Diamonds Inc.;
- Platinex Inc.;
- Perry Vern English;

- Michael Albert Haveman; and
- Clark Exploration and Consulting Inc.

For context, provides an overview of recent and current mining operations near the LSA and RSA. There are no mining operations within the LSA and RSA.

Table 8-7: Review of Recent and Current Mining Operations near the LSA and RSA

Mines	Resource	Status	Distance from WSR
Victor Diamond Mine	Diamonds	▪ Opened July 2008 ▪ Closure phase started in June 2019	150 km east of the Project location
Musselwhite	Gold	▪ Opened in April 1997 ▪ Currently active mine	210 km west of the Project location

Source: Ontario Mining Association, 2022.

8.3.2.2 Aggregates

There is potential for aggregate resources as the RSA overlaps with areas containing metamorphic and igneous rock, glaciofluvial ice-contact deposits, and fluvial deposits. **Figure 8-20** shows potential aggregate resources in the RSA and **Table 8-8** shows the number and area of aggregate deposits that are in the RSA.

Table 8-8: Aggregate in the Regional Study Area

Aggregate Deposits	Number Overlapped in the RSA
Number	39
Area (ha)	1620

Source: Land Information Ontario, 2022.

8.3.2.3 Forestry

Forestry is a consideration for potential land use in the RSA. There are no forestry management units that overlap with the RSA. The closest forest management unit is the Ogoki Forest, south of the RSA and it covers a landmass of approximately 10,990 km^2. The plan outlines forest management activities such as access, harvest, renewal and tending that are planned for the 10-year plan period of 2020-2030 (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020).

The forestry industry in northern Ontario is primarily located within the Districts of Kenora, Thunder Bay and Cochrane as it is surrounded by the Boreal Forest (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2022g). Ontario manages forests on Crown lands within the forestry management planning area for the province (“the area of the undertaking”) under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994, which covers approximately 70.5 million ha of forest, or 66 % of the province. The *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* enables the regulation of forest planning, operations, licensing, processing, and enforcement related to the forestry industry in this area. Ontario’s managed forests are divided into Forest Management Units (FMU) which are designated administrative areas that issue specific sustainable forestry licences to forestry companies. Each FMU has its own sustainable Forest Management Plan (FMP) for 10 or 20 years.

The Project’s LSA and RSA for the EA/IA do not fall within the Ontario’s Crown Forest Management Units.

8.3.2.4 Fishing

Commercial fishing also has a longstanding history in Ontario. As of 2022, it employed 1,000 people and contributed $230 million a year to the economy (MNR, 2022). The Project is located with Fisheries Management Zones 1, 2 and 3 which does not have monitoring reports, management plans or advisory council at this time (MNR, 2023a). Federal and provincial legislation oversee the licensing provisions and details involved in commercial fishing and several programs across Canada develop and fund Indigenous fisheries although the geographic focus of these programs on provinces with ocean coastlines (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2023). Indigenous commercial fishing has been a sensitive issue for First Nations as the right to sell fish has been raised in court cases (Slattery & Slattery Aboriginal Law Practitioners, 2020).

The RSA is located within Fishery Management Zones 1, 2 and 3 (MNR, 2023a). There are no monitoring reports for commercial fishing in these zones.

8.3.2.5 Commercial

Commercial activities in other First Nations in the LSA are included in **Table 8-9**.

Table 8-9: Summary of Commercial Activities in First Nations communities in the RSA

Indigenous Community	Activities
Aroland First Nation	Businesses in Aroland First Nation include O'Sullivan Lake Gas Bar and Towedo Buslines which operate within Nakina and 15 minutes from the community (211 Ontario North, 2023a).
Constance Lake First Nation	Constance Lake First Nation signed an exploration agreement with Noble Mineral Exploration in 2024, expanding its industrial ventures (Northern Ontario Business, 2022).
Fort Albany First Nation	Fort Albany First Nation includes a Northern Store and Air Creebec provides Fort Albany with daily flights at Fort Albany Airport connecting to Timmins (Northwest Company, 2023). Loones Lodge provides accommodation for visitors.
Ginoogaming First Nation	Ginoogaming First Nation can access grocery shopping and business affairs in Longlac, which is 5 minutes from the reserve (Northwest Health Line, 2023a). In May 2023, Ginoogaming First Nation identified funds for a feasibility study to determine the potential for an engineered wood product mill plant located within the community to build back the forest-based economy (Ginoogaming First Nation, 2023).
Kashechewan First Nation	There is a Northern Store and Air A.N.H Market which provides members with general goods (A.N.H Market, N.D and North Mart, N.D). Kashechewan Airport is located within the community and AirCreebec flies in and out of the community (AirCreebec, 2023).
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation has a variety of commercial businesses including Tasona Atawekamik Store, and Canawape Enterprise Store. Big Trout Lake Hotel and Restaurant and Sunset Lodge as accommodations for visitors. Wasaya Airways flies to and from the community at Big Trout Lake Airport (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, N.D).
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	Kingfisher Lake First Nation has a business centre that includes the Omahamo Store has been operating within Kingfisher Lake First Nation for over 40 years. This also includes the Omahamo Hotel Complex and restaurant (Northwest Health Line, 2023c).
Long Lake #58 First Nation	Members of Long Lake #58 First Nation conduct their grocery shopping and business affairs in Longlac, which is 5 minutes from the reserve (211 Ontario North, 2023c). Long Lake #58 includes a general store within their community (211 Ontario North, 2023d).
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	Mishkeegogamang First Nation includes Laureen's Gas & Grocer for general basics and gas (The Free Library, 2002). Information regarding commercial, recreational and tourism within the community is limited.

Indigenous Community	Activities
North Caribou Lake First Nation	North Caribou Lake First Nation has two main stores within the community – Northern Store and Onadamakay for general goods. North Caribou Lake First Nation is serviced by flights with Weagamow Air and Wasaya Airways at Round Lake airport located 1.9 km west of the community and Weagamow Air Base (Northwest Health Line, 2023d).
Wapekeka First Nation	Wapekeka First Nation has one community store – Wapekeka Community Store Wapekeka is serviced by flights with Bearskin Airlines and Wasaya Airways at Wapekeka Airport (211 Ontario North, 2023g).
Wawakapewin First Nation	Wawakapewin First Nation has a motel with 7 rooms and access is by a chartered aircraft that has either floats or skis (depending on the season) or winter road (Wawakapewin, 2023). Information regarding commercial, recreational and tourism within the community is limited.
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	Wunnumin Lake First Nation has the Wunnumin Lake Community Store and Northwest Company store for general goods. Wunnumin Lake First Nation includes an arena and gym for sports and community events. (Northwest Health Line, 2023e).

8.4 Tourism

Tourism is an important economic activity for several Indigenous communities. Commercial use includes any activity or business that uses the resources from the land to provide income, such as commercial fishing, hunting and trapping. As fishing, hunting, trapping, and gathering wild plants has been a way of living for Indigenous Peoples across Canada for millennia, many Indigenous communities rely on these traditional activities as their source of income (Kumar et al., 2019).

Indigenous Tourism refers to tourism businesses that are primarily owned, operated, or controlled by First Nations, Métis, or Inuit peoples. These businesses showcase a strong connection and commitment to the local Indigenous community and the traditional territory where they operate. Indigenous Cultural Tourism not only adheres to the criteria of Indigenous tourism but also integrates a significant portion of distinct Indigenous culture into the experience. This incorporation is done in a manner that is appropriate, respectful, and authentic. The true essence of authenticity is reflected in the active involvement of Indigenous people in both the development and delivery of the experience. (Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, n.d.).

Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO, 2024) is the province's sole organization dedicated to Indigenous tourism. It aims to unite communities, organizations, and industry leaders to foster the growth of Indigenous tourism in Ontario. According to economic research conducted by the organization, many people are interested in Indigenous tourism because it offers a unique chance to learn about various aspects of Canada that Canadians, First Nations people, and international travelers might not otherwise experience. Indigenous tourism in Ontario during 2024 have exceeded the pre-covid numbers from 2019. They plan to focus on new feast opportunities and culinary projects to highlight Indigenous chefs and their talents globally (CTV News, 2024). In the 2018 survey completed by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada of Indigenous businesses that participate in the Indigenous tourism sector in Canada, Ontario generated 41.1 million in direct GDP from recreation and outdoor activities (Fiser and Hermus, 2019). According to the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, Ontario generated the second highest revenue in direct GDP from tourism and outdoor activities (Fiser and Hermus, 2019). In addition to resource-based businesses in the tourism and recreation domains, other businesses also provide goods and services to local First Nations community members on- and off-reserve such as hospitality, retail, arts, management and public administration.

Recently, initiatives have been undertaken to boost tourism in the area, particularly nature- and resource-based tourism and recreation, which leverages the region's natural features (O'Neill, 2015). The region's natural features make it ideal for economic development through resource- and nature-based tourism and recreation.

The goal of the resource-based tourism policy is to foster and support the growth of Ontario's resource-based tourism sector in a way that is both ecologically and economically sustainable. Allocation model policy outlines a framework to

develop specific tools aimed at promoting and supporting the growth of resource-based tourism. This framework provides tourist operators with opportunities to enhance their business prospects through improved tenure, resource allocation, and stewardship responsibilities (Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming and Ministry of Sport, 2024).

8.4.1 Local Study Area

The Native Camp Operators Alliance/Moccasin Trails Adventures is a consortium of remote, fly-in fishing and hunting outpost camps, managed by First Nations Peoples in northwestern Ontario. For almost two decades, they have been delivering outstanding wilderness vacations at four outpost camps, Chipai, Kanuchuan, Wapikopa and Ozhiski which are located in the RSA (Matawa First Nations, n.d.).

Most of these camps boast beautiful, rustic log cabins, handcrafted by the owners. They are located within three of Ontario's five largest watersheds, all draining into either Hudson Bay or James Bay. The northernmost is the Winisk River, which stretches 275 miles and flows into Hudson Bay. The Ojibwe word 'Winisk' translates to 'groundhog'.

These camps are generally remote and accessible only by float plane. Visitors typically fly into Thunder Bay International Airport and then travel to Pickle Lake, Ontario, where the float plane base is situated. Alternatively, driving to Pickle Lake is an option, taking about six hours northeast of Thunder Bay. Guests with their own planes can fly into one of the First Nations communities to meet their guides.

8.4.1.1 Webequie First Nation

Aiming for community self-sufficiency, Webequie First Nation has developed its wilderness tourism sector. Some community members now make a living through guiding and tourism, primarily centered on outdoor activities like hunting and fishing. The Webequie First Nation Reserve offers various cultural and recreational activities, welcoming visitors interested in learning about their culture and heritage.

Spruce Shores Lodge is located on-reserve and located a short distance from the community on Winisk Lake. The three-bedroom log cabin is a new facility that can service up to 6 people. Another retreat location is on Coomb Lake about 95 km from the community.

Other outposts, camps, and cabins may also be in the LSA but have not been identified. Other community member owned and operated "resource-based tourism establishments and supporting infrastructure within the proposed Webequie draft CBLUP area and several others immediately adjacent to the west and south boundaries" (Webequie First Nation, 2024; AtkinsRéalis, 2022f). In addition to the outposts, the community also hosts the Webequie Motel for lodging convenience and temporary accommodation. Tourism in the area is primarily focused on outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing (Webequie First Nation, 2023c). The community also has related business such as ecotourism, however exact details have not been confirmed (Webequie First Nation, 2023).

Northern Ontario Native Tourism Association (NONTA) and its subsidiary, Moccasin Trails Inc. Fishing Adventures, offer fishing vacation packages. Nine project partners, including an airline, a trucking service, and four new outpost camps owned and operated by Aboriginal entrepreneurs, provide vacation packages with flights directly from Thunder Bay. Revenue reached approximately $450,000 "in the first year of operation" (CPAWS Wildlands League and Ontario Nature, 2005). Additional benefits include increased sales of refreshments and crafts in the communities and the creation and maintenance of jobs. The Northern Stores in Webequie and Bearskin Lake have collectively boosted their revenues by $50,000 by supplying services and goods to the camps (CPAWS Wildlands League and Ontario Nature, 2005).

In 2017, Matawa Education piloted a canoe trip down the Winisk River to Webequie (Meeskwatay Dibaajimowin, 2017a). Another summer camp based near Camp Wabun paddled the traditional canoe route from Windigo Lake to

Webequie over 35 days (Meeskwatay Dibaajimowin, 2017b). This trip is advertised through word of mouth and past campers.

Since the 1960s, Webequie First Nation has actively led various resource-based tourism ventures in the traditional territory. Community members have developed businesses centered on high-quality fishing, hunting, and guiding experiences. Through this planning process, Webequie community members are advancing a vision for tourism and recreation that includes new resource-based and eco-cultural tourism opportunities, with several specific community-led ventures identified. However, Webequie raised concerns about tourism in the Winisk River area and engaged with the Province of Ontario to safeguard the community's interests (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). In 1966, the growing demand for tourism led to provincial government setting aside the "Winisk Wild River Indian Guide Territory" and established the Winisk River Provincial Park over Winisk Lake and Winisk River in 1968 (Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, 2021a). This move, however, intersected with Indigenous Nations exercise of their inherent rights to traditional lands, water usage, and the pursuit of economic and community development goals. Additional tourism development will only be permitted once the park's management plan is complete (Ministry of Natural Resources, 1991).

The Draft Webequie First Nation CBLUP identifies tourism opportunities throughout its AIP. New commercial tourism opportunities in the AIP will be spearheaded by Webequie First Nation, aiming for long-term business sustainability and community benefits. Webequie First Nation also seeks to collaborate with neighboring First Nations, other parties, and stakeholders to develop partnerships in new tourism ventures (Webequie First Nation, and MNRF, 2025). The Terms of Reference of Webequie First Nation draft CBLUP has listed tourism as one of their planning subjects. The planning team will seek advice on this subject from the Webequie Economic Development Committee that consists of tourism outfitters and potential entrepreneurs. Webequie has been involved in the tourism industry for many years and wishes to promote tourism for community benefits as well as for benefits to Ontario.

Dedicated Protected Areas (DPA) are recommended to provide primary protection focus for areas of ecological significance, central livelihood importance and encompass areas of provincial interest for conservation which hold potential for community-led commercial tourism opportunities (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). Tourism, both existing and potential, is a key focus for several of the zones within the AIP due to its location to the community, resources, protected areas, and the distinctive geography of the Ontario Shield, characterized by rolling terrain, large lakes, and interconnected rivers. There is a significant interest in developing more community-owned and operated tourism businesses, particularly those that promote eco-cultural tourism. The area encourages the development of community-led tourism initiatives centered on resource-based tourism. Additionally, it supports multi-use tourism facilities and lodges that emphasize eco-cultural tourism.

DPA and Enhanced Managed Areas (EMA) also permit new tourism opportunities that are community-led developments. The EMAs include river systems that have potential for resource-based and eco-cultural tourism opportunities, areas with natural and cultural features and values also have some potential for resource-based tourism such as fisheries and hunting. The Draft CBLUP may also permit small scale hydro to support tourism endeavours.

Major lakes within the AIP area include Wapikopa, Chipai and Kanachuan (Webequie First Nation and MNRF, 2025). These lake and river systems are a focus for existing and new community-based tourism operations. The draft CBLUP outlined zones that are well-suited for future community-led commercial forestry, mineral sector activities, and a range of high-quality tourism ventures, including eco-cultural, adventure, and resource-based tourism. Webequie First Nation may explore commercial fishing opportunities within designated zones within the AIP, while remaining committed to sustaining healthy fisheries and balancing these efforts with existing and future tourism interests

A Webequie First Nation Knowledge Holder described two fishing camps are the primary tourism-related businesses in the area (SNC Lavalin, 2022).

Based on the Socio-Economic survey conducted in July 2021, 74 out of 221 respondents believe that the project will create job opportunities for Webequie First Nation in the tourism sector.

According to the Webequie First Nation on-reserve land use plan (Webequie First Nation, 2019), eco-tourism business opportunities are being developed to boost economic growth through resorts, lodges, camps, cabins, and float plane and boat docks with staging and storage areas. They also have long-term plans for supporting fishing and tourism camps, including business planning, training, capacity building, feasibility studies, and marketing. Community Comprehensive Plan outreach has revealed a strong interest among members in establishing guided tourism camps as a means of economic development, with many expressing a desire to offer guided fishing trips to tourists. The airport expansion could include facilities to support these ventures, such as storage areas and offices. Beyond the village, this would involve constructing new cabins or repairing existing ones. The draft CBLUP objectives include respecting existing land uses and identifying new opportunities in recreation, tourism/eco-tourism, renewable energy, the mineral sector, local forest management, non-timber forest products, and protected areas management.

The Webequie community comprehensive plan (Webequie First Nation, 2023) highlights the goal of cultural vibrancy and traditional life, proposing the creation of a cultural centre, on-the-land retreat, and healing centre that could also serve as a tourism centre when not in use for their primary purposes. Community input has emphasized various activities for environmental recommendations, economic development, education, and training, including socio-economic tourism, ecotourism, dog sledding (as part of ecotourism), tourism camps, fishing, guiding, camping, boating, tourism operator training, moose hunting, and cultural activities related to the land.

8.4.1.2 Marten Falls First Nation

Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) existing conditions fact sheet (MFCAR, 2023) on economics state that the region boasts an extensive land area that provides numerous opportunities for tourism activities centered around its remote wilderness. Furthermore, during the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism outfitters saw a significant decline in business and revenue. However, with the easing of restrictions, there has been a steady rise in reservations, approaching pre-pandemic levels, although some outfitters are still working to fully recover their previous revenue levels.

Marten Falls community-based land use plan terms of reference (Marten Falls First Nation, 2013) lists tourism as one of their planning subjects and aims to identify current and future tourism opportunities, to suggest preferred tourism activities and strategies to boost tourism, to encourage communication with current tourism operators and cabin owners in the community's trap line areas to foster mutual respect and understanding and to propose land use zoning to support the desired opportunities.

Marten Falls First Nation believes that the proposed roads (WSR, NRL, MFCAR) will grant outsiders greater access to the land and resources within and around their traditional territory. This increased access could lead to overhunting and overfishing due to heightened tourism or poaching. Despite these concerns, many Marten Falls First Nation members' remain hopeful that the proposed roads will bring more positive benefits than negative impacts, particularly for younger generations. Members envision the WSR and future developments in and around Marten Falls First Nation's traditional territory resulting in: Tourism and outfitting as economic development opportunities for Marten Falls First Nation. (Marten Falls First Nation, 2024)

8.4.1.3 Weenusk First Nation

Weenusk First Nation community-based land use plan terms of reference (Weenusk First Nation and MNR, 2017) lists tourism as one of their planning subjects and aim to identify current and future tourism opportunities (e.g., youth land-based learning camps), ensure the plan addresses how tourism activities can remain respectful of Weenuski Inninowuk and to identify existing and potential al opportunities.

During the information received during an Aboriginal Treaty Rights and/or Interests forum it was noted that Eco-tourism takes place in Weenusk First Nation and includes travel along the river by canoe, fishing and polar bear watching.

8.4.1.4 Nibinamik First Nation

Nibinamik First Nation in the past provided a 10-week tourism course in the community for the youth. Community members have further expressed their interest in training in tourism (Nibinamik First Nation, 2014b).

Matawa's Economic Development Unit hosted a Tourism Strategy Meeting and Off-Reserve Community Session on February 5, 2018, to gather feedback on a Regional Tourism Strategic Plan. Over the preceding months, input has also been collected through workshops in all nine Matawa communities which includes Webequie First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation and Aroland First Nation. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Rural Economic Development Program, the project aims to establish a vision, goals, and strategies for long-term tourism development as an economic driver for Matawa communities and to help grow the local industry.

The 20-year plan will include (Matawa First Nations Management, 2018):

- Product development, enhancing mainstream tourism experiences with Indigenous cultural elements.
- Training and capacity development in all areas of the tourism industry, including business management, marketing, hospitality, and guiding.
- Ensuring cultural authenticity for target markets such as connected explorers and knowledge seekers.
- Marketing and branding to distinguish Matawa communities from other tourism providers.
- Promoting ease of access for target markets, including highway access and remote communities.
- Identifying financing requirements to establish and sustain the tourism industry.

The Matawa Tourism Strategic Plan is expected to be completed by March 31, 2018.

Matawa currently supports the Native Camp Operators Alliance, which consists of remote, fly-in fishing and hunting outpost camps owned and operated by Indigenous Peoples from Matawa communities, promoted by Moccasin Trails Adventures. These camps are located within three of the five largest watersheds in Ontario, all draining into either Hudson Bay or James Bay (Matawa First Nations Management, 2018a)

David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO, Matawa First Nations Management states:

> "We are excited to be finalizing the strategy and look forward to supporting the Matawa First Nations to help develop Indigenous employment and deliver additional economic opportunities to this region. We are increasingly hearing that travelers from Germany, Asia and other places overseas are seeking out authentic Indigenous experiences which allow them to the view this country through the eyes of the traditional owners. The implementation of the tourism strategy will allow for that to happen in one of Canada's most unique places—the Matawa traditional territories," states David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO, Matawa First Nations Management.

As noted by Jason Rasevych, Economic Development Advisor – Matawa First Nations Management:

> "The development of Matawa First Nations cultural attractions and products will signal an exciting new era for Northwestern Ontario. Our tourism vision will be built from communities who have a story to tell, tourism can showcase our identity, culture, and language, it represents who we are as peoples of the land. With Ontario capturing 30 percent of Canada's annual total Indigenous tourism and spending output totaling $1.7 billion, we plan to develop, market and grow the industry in our area."

8.4.2 Regional Study Area

Northwestern Ontario has a vibrant culture of outdoor tourism and recreational land use. The Project is located within the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's Regional Tourism Organization 13C. Local residents also make use of the recreational resources in the RSA. Both locals and visitors enjoy using local camps, cabins, and cottages, in addition to their primary residences and private lands, for various recreational and tourism activities.

Northern Ontario provides ample sources of both land and water based outdoor recreational activities for tourists to enjoy at their leisure such as wilderness camping, hiking, fishing, climbing, canoeing, winter sports and hunting. Tourists can also participate in the cultural tourism northern Ontario has to offer. Hunting, trapping and fishing are regulated through the provincial *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* which provides restrictions on hunting and fishing, licensing requirements, safety requirements and permitted hunting methods. The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* also outline regulations for traplines. Trapline areas are Crown and private land used by trappers licensed by the ministry to harvest furbearing mammals for commercial use. This is a ministry-regulated boundary used to administer traplines and fur management programs and to monitor furbearer populations (Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 2023). Five outpost camps are located along the Winisk River system to support fishing, hunting, recreation and tourism (**Table 8-10**).

In 1966, the provincial government set aside the "Winisk Wild River Indian Guide Territory" and established the Winisk River Provincial Park over Winisk Lake and Winisk River in 1968 (Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, 2021a). There are several fishing outposts along the Winisk River, and outpost camps were located along the Winisk River. In 1973, land use permits were issued for 5 sites in the park, but previous to the issuance of the land use permits, these sites were already being operated as commercial tourist establishments (Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, 2021a). In July 1978, the Ministry of Natural Resources (now MNRF) hired a schoolteacher in Webequie to canoe a portion of Winisk River Provincial Park to establish campsites and clear portages for park visitors. The current conditions of those facilities are unknown at this time (Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, 2021a). (**Figure 7-2** shows the locations of these outposts in Winisk River Provincial Park).

Table 8-10: Outposts within the RSA

Outposts	Description
Coomb Lake	▪ Accessible by plane
Chipai Outpost Camp	▪ Rustic cabin for 10 people with amenities and services, commercially operated ▪ Walleye and Northern Pike fishing stock ▪ Accessible by plane
Wapikopa Outpost Camp	▪ Outpost camp for 6 people with amenities and services, commercially operated ▪ Walleye and Northern Pike fishing stock ▪ Accessible by plane
Asheweig River	▪ Cabin built in 2005 for 6 people with amenities and services, commercial operated ▪ Walleye, Northern Pike, Brook Trout fishing stock ▪ Accessible by plane
Birch Bark Lodge	▪ Located on Wigwascence Lake ▪ Two cottages for 12 people, with amenities and services, commercial operated ▪ Walleye, Northern Pike, Brook Trout and Whitefish fishing stock ▪ Accessible by plane

Sources: Matawa, n.d.; Sunset Country, 2025; Webequie First Nation, 2023a.

Gooseberry Tourism located in Peawanuck, offers hunting and fishing guided services for trips to Polar Bear Provincial Park, Gooseberry Brook, along the Hudson Bay Coast and other lakes and rivers in the Hudson Bay Lowlands. They

offer guided packages that include transportation, camp, fuel, food, guides with extensive experience, and bed & breakfast while in town. “Our guides were so knowledgeable, and we learned so much from them and what it’s like to live and hunt off the land” (Gooseberry Tourism, n.d.).

8.4.2.1 Kenora District

Tourism is a significant contributor to the local economy, with substantial investments in infrastructure and promotional activities in Kenora District. Since 2007, over $30 million has been invested in tourism infrastructure projects, enhancing the visitor experience and supporting year-round events and festivals. Key projects include the Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre, downtown revitalization of Harbourtown Centre, and the construction of the Jarnel Contracting Pavilion (Kenora, 2025).

Visitor statistics highlight the success of these initiatives, with the Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre welcoming approximately 20,000 visitors annually. Surveys indicate high visitor satisfaction, with 93% of respondents expressing a desire to return. The Municipal Accommodation Tax, implemented in 2018, has generated significant revenue, which is reinvested into tourism initiatives such as advertising, park redevelopment, and trail lighting. This tax supports the continuous improvement of tourism infrastructure and services (Kenora, 2025). Kenora promotes a four-season tourism sector, offering activities like fishing, boating, skiing, and snowmobiling. This approach ensures a steady flow of visitors throughout the year, contributing to the resilience of the local economy. The Kenora Hospitality Alliance and other local organizations collaborate to support and promote tourism, fostering a strong community spirit and ensuring the sustainability of the industry (City of Kenora, 2021).

The city offers a range of accommodations, including hotels and motels. Notable options include the Clarion Lakeside Inn and Conference Centre and the Super 8 by Wyndham Kenora (The Corporation of the City of Kenora, 2025). The government has recognized the importance of tourism to the local economy and has supported initiatives to enhance the visitor experience. For instance, the City of Kenora acknowledges the economic benefits brought by the Anishinaabe and Métis communities and promotes strong relationships with Treaty #3 partners to support local tourism (The Corporation of the City of Kenora, 2025).

Terms of Reference for Kashechewan First Nation Community Based Land Use planning (Kashechewan First Nation, 2023) lists tourism as a planning subject and an outcome. It is aimed at exploring tourism opportunities to boost economic development, focusing on ecotourism, adventure tourism, and other nature-based activities. Additionally, it is planning on identifying local, easily accessible tourism options.

Terms of Reference for Wawakapewin First Nation Community Based Land Use planning (Wawakapewin First Nation and MNR, 2024) lists tourism and eco-tourism as a planning subject.

8.4.2.2 Cochrane District

Cochrane District in Ontario is a year-round destination that offers a blend of natural beauty and outdoor adventure. Known for its pristine wilderness, the region is perfect for activities like snowmobiling, dog sledding, and exploring scenic trails. The district has experiences of local culture and history included with attractions such as the Polar Bear Habitat and the Tim Horton Museum for tourists. The district also boasts beautiful landscapes, including Greenwater Provincial Park, which features unique geological formations and clear lakes (Tourism Cochrane, 2025a; Tourism Cochrane, 2025b). The district offers a variety of accommodations, including hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts. Notable options include the Best Western Swan Castle Inn, Chimo Motel, and Econo Lodge (Town of Cochrane, 2025a). The government supports tourism in Cochrane District through initiatives like the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT), which was implemented to promote and grow the tourism industry (Town of Cochrane, 2025b). This tax helps fund local tourism associations and municipal efforts to enhance the visitor experience, ensuring that Cochrane District remains an attractive destination for travelers (Town of Cochrane, 2025b).

In terms of visitor statistics, Cochrane District attracts a significant number of tourists annually. Approximately 3.7 million tourists, or 58% of all tourists in Northern Ontario, stay overnight, while about 2.7 million, or 42%, are on same-day excursions (Industry Canada, 2010).

Terms of Reference for Constance Lake First Nation Community Based Land Use planning (Constance Lake First Nation, 2014) lists tourism as in its scope of planning, aiming to explore potential future remote tourism opportunities to enhance economic development for the First Nation and to identify local, easily accessible tourism options.

8.4.2.3 Thunder Bay District

Thunder Bay District in Ontario is a destination known for its stunning natural landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Main activities include Lake Superior, hiking through the boreal forests, and climbing to one of the highest points in the province (Tourism Thunder Bay, 2018). The district offers a variety of attractions, including Fort William Historical Park, the Terry Fox Monument, and Prince Arthur's Landing (Tourism Thunder Bay, 2023). Thunder Bay's culinary scene has flourished, offering unique northern flavors and farm-to-table experiences (Tourism Thunder Bay, 2018). The district has year-round activities ranging from sailing and ship watching to skating and museum tours (Tourism Thunder Bay, 2023).

In terms of visitor statistics, Thunder Bay District welcomed 407,646 unique visitors in 2023 (Tourism Thunder Bay, 2023). The district also hosted 11 significant events, attracting 2,800 visitors and resulting in 14,500 visitor days (Tourism Thunder Bay, 2023).

The city also offers a range of accommodations from luxury hotels to bed and breakfasts. The city has notable hotels such as the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel & Conference Centre and the Days Inn by Wyndham Thunder Bay North. The government has actively supported tourism in Thunder Bay, with initiatives like the FedNor investment of $230,821 to enhance winter tourism activities (Government of Canada, 2025a). This funding helps promote seasonal events and attract visitors, boosting the local economy and showcasing Thunder Bay's unique attractions (Government of Canada, 2025a).

8.5 Provincial Parks, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and Protected Areas

Provincial Parks are areas of land or water of variable sizes that are designated by the provincial government and managed by Ontario Parks, for the purposes of conservation, recreation, tourism or education.

An Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) is an area of land and/or water containing natural landscapes or features which have been identified as having life science or earth science (or both) values related to natural heritage protection, scientific study or education (Ontario Parks, 2011). Life Science ANSIs include specific types of forests, valleys, prairies and wetlands, their native plants and animals and their supportive environments. They contain relatively undisturbed vegetation and landforms and their associated species and communities. Earth Science ANSIs are geological in nature and consist of examples of the bedrock, fossil and landforms in Ontario and include examples of ongoing geological processes (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2022).

Candidate ANSIs are areas of natural and scientific interest that have been identified and recommended for protection by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), or other sources but have not been formally confirmed through the confirmation procedure. The MNRF confirms whether the ANSI is provincially, regionally, or locally significant (Ontario Parks, 2000).

A conservation reserve is an area that protects significant natural and cultural features while providing opportunities for a variety of compatible traditional activities (e.g., fishing, hunting, trapping). Regulated under the *Provincial Parks and*

Conservation Reserves Act, these reserves are also important for scientific research and environmental monitoring (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2022).

This section describes the provincial parks, ANSI, and protected areas in the LSA and RSA, including:

- Existing navigable waterways and navigation use including type, volume, seasonality, maneuverability, and physical characteristics (e.g., width, depth, etc.), bank/bottom features, biological components, flow/tides, etc.;
- Past, current, and anticipated future use of all waterways and waterbodies, including recreational uses by Indigenous communities and the public (including special events, fishing, cottagers, etc.);
- Use of waterways with Indigenous cultural importance (see **Section 5.8** for a description of waterways); and
- Potential of obstructions, restrictions, or expansions of access to navigable waterways (e.g., portage routes and access roads).

Information on provincial parks, ANSI, and protected areas was collected from various databases including Indigenous consultation and Indigenous knowledge, MNRF, business operators, and desktop studies.

Parks and protected areas have social, recreational, environmental and health and wellbeing values to communities and users. The information presented in this section will help identify how the Project may affect Indigenous and public use of parks and protected areas.

8.5.1 Local Study Area

This section provides a comprehensive overview of existing protected areas and conservation designations, contextualized within the broader framework of the Project Footprint and LSA. During the 1960s, the growing demand for tourism along the Winisk River led to Ontario's establishment of the Winisk River Provincial Park (Webequie First Nation, 2019c). This move, however, intersected with Webequie's exercise of their inherent rights to traditional lands, water usage, and the pursuit of economic and community development goals. Importantly, the Winisk River Provincial Park lies outside the LSA, positioned to the north of the Webequie First Nation Reserve and in close proximity to the WSR.

8.5.1.1 Provincial Parks

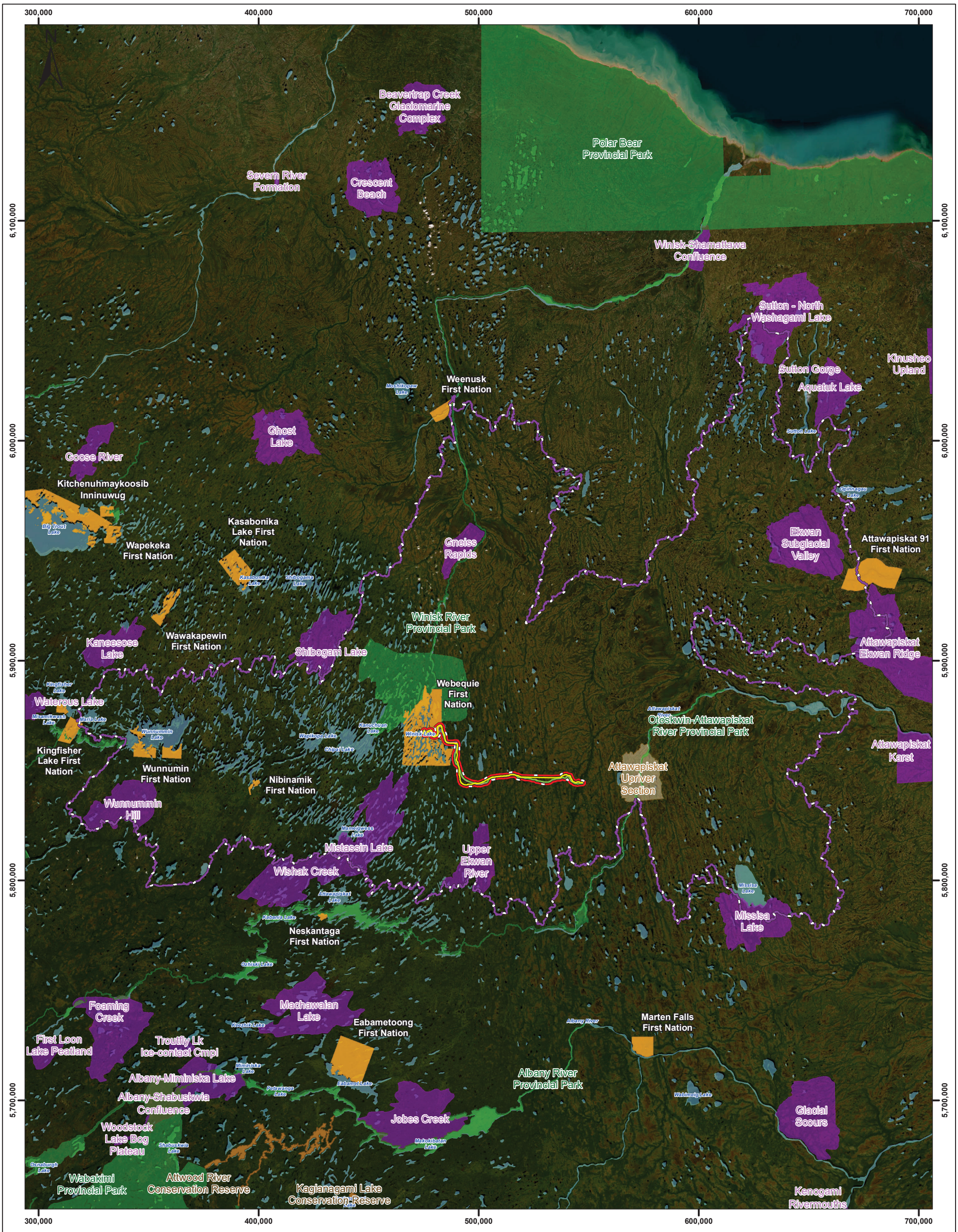
There are no federal, provincial, or regional/municipal protected parks and protected areas which overlap with the Project Footprint and LSA (**Figure 8-21**).

8.5.1.2 Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

There are no ANSIs or Candidate ANSIs which intersect the Project Footprint or LSA (**Figure 8-21**).

8.5.1.3 Conservation Reserve

There are no conservation reserves which intersect with the Project Footprint or LSA (**Figure 8-21**).



Legend

Route Label

- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3 (Preferred Route)
- Land and Resource Use Local Study Area
- Land and Resource Use Regional Study Area
- First Nation Reserve – Engaged in the Project
- First Nation Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Provincial Park

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

- Candidate ANSI, Earth Science
- Candidate ANSI, Life Science
- Waterbody

WSR WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD

0 50 100 Km

Webequie Supply Road (WSR)

Provincial Parks, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and Protected Areas

Figure Number:	REV:
8.21	PA

Client:	Project Number:	Date:
Webequie First Nation	661910	2/21/2024

DSC	DRN	CHK	APP
	AD	VS	VS

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Download Date : 2021-02-04

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8.5.2 Regional Study Area

This section provides an overview of provincial parks and conservation designations identified within the RSA (**Figure 8-21**). The information presented in this section describes key protected areas and their characteristics in the Project's RSA.

8.5.2.1 Provincial Parks

The following provincial parks are the closest in vicinity to the LSA and in the vicinity of the RSA. Winisk River Provincial Park is the only park within the RSA.

8.5.2.1.1 Winisk River Provincial Park

To the north of the Webequie First Nation Reserve, approximately 2.17 km from WSR, is the Winisk River Provincial Park. The parkland is approximately 141,000 ha in size and boasts unique landforms including a large moraine and drumlin fields. The park is located within the traditional territory of Webequie First Nations. The Park was created in 1968 due to growing concerns about tourism in the Winisk River Area (Webequie First Nation, 2023). The Winisk River Provincial Park Interim Management Plan, 1991 provides direction for the management of the park (Ministry of Natural Resources, 1991). The only access to the park is by canoe, air or by float plane park (Ministry of Natural Resources, 1991). This park does not feature facilities for visitors but activities such as white-water paddling, canoe and kayaking, back country camping, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling are supported within the park (Ontario Parks, 2022). Five outpost camps are located along the Winisk River System to support fishing and hunting tourism (Please refer to **Figure 7-2**). The Winisk River Provincial Park Interim Management Plan, 1991 provides direction for the management of the park (Ministry of Natural Resources, 1991). Webequie First Nation, MNRF and Ontario Parks continue to have dialogue and collaborate for future opportunities in Winisk River Provincial Park.

Approximately 72,597 ha of Winisk River Provincial Park is within the RSA.

Kasabonika Lake First Nation is situated on the southwestern shores of Kasabonika Lake which is part of the Winisk River watershed.

8.5.2.1.2 Otoskwin-Attawapiskat River Provincial Park

Southwest of the Webequie Reserve, approximately 24 km from WSR, is the Otoskwin/Attawapiskat River Provincial Park. The park is approximately 82,529 ha in size, most of the area is water. The park is located within the traditional territories of Neskantaga, Marten Falls, Eabametoong, Mishkeegogamang and Attawaspikat First Nations. The area features several historical sites with significance to Indigenous communities dating back to 3,000 BC. The Otoskwin-Attawapiskat River Provincial Park Management Plan specifics the objectives to provide opportunities for recreational uses that are compatible with the area's remote nature (Ontario Parks, 2002). A preliminary survey of the archaeological resources of the Attawapiskat Lake area has identified over 30 sites and First Nations have placed a high priority on the protection of cultural sites (Ontario Parks, 2002). This park does not feature facilities for visitors but activities such as white-water paddling, canoe and kayaking, back country camping, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling are supported within the park (Ontario Parks, 2023b).

8.5.2.1.3 Wabakimi Provincial Park

Southwest of the Webequie Reserve, approximately 195 km from WSR, is Wabakimi Provincial Park. The park is approximately 892,061 ha in size. The park is known to be a traditional area to several Indigenous communities in the area including the Anishinaabeg and Métis First Nation (Great Lakes Guide, 2020). Wabakimi Provincial Park Interim Management Plan (2000) provides direction for the management of the park until a park management plan is developed (Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, 2021b). The park can be accessed by road, rail or air and is the second largest provincial park in Ontario (Friends of Wabakimi, 2020). The park includes over 1,500 km of identified

canoe routes. Additional activities such as white-water paddling, kayaking, back country camping, fishing, hunting and snowshoeing are supported within the park (Ontario Parks, 2023a).

8.5.2.1.4 Albany River Provincial Park

The Albany River Provincial Park was established in 1989, starting at Lake St. Joseph at Highway 599 and traversing downriver, approximately 300 km to approximately 30 km west of Marten Falls. The Albany River is a key waterway for travel for Anishinaabemowin/Anishinaabe/Mushkegowuk communities. First Nation members have cabins and camps which they use for harvesting and hunting within their traditional territory.

8.5.2.1.5 Otoskwin-Attawapiskat River Provincial Park

Southwest of the Webequie Reserve, approximately 24 km from WSR, is the Otoskwin/Attawapiskat River Provincial Park. The park is approximately 82,529 ha in size, most of the area is water. The park is located within the traditional territories of Neskantaga, Marten Falls, Eabametoong, Mishkeegogamang and Attawapiskat First Nations. The area features several historical sites with significance to Indigenous communities dating back to 3,000 BC. The Otoskwin-Attawapiskat River Provincial Park Management Plan specifics the objectives to provide opportunities for recreational uses that are compatible with the area's remote nature (Ontario Parks, 2002). A preliminary survey of the archaeological resources of the Attawapiskat Lake area has identified over 30 sites and First Nations have placed a high priority on the protection of cultural sites (Ontario Parks, 2002). This park does not feature facilities for visitors but activities such as white-water paddling, canoe and kayaking, back country camping, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling are supported within the park (Ontario Parks, 2023b).

8.5.2.2 Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

ANSI represent the natural features and landscapes that have importance or features relevant to natural heritage, protection, appreciation, scientific study or education. ANSI in Ontario are categorized into Life Science, as examples of Ontario's biodiversity and natural landscapes, or Earth Science for geological features. ANSI are evaluated by five criteria (Natural Heritage, Lands and Protected Spaces, 2011):

- Representation – of geological or landform-vegetation features;
- Condition – the level of human induced disturbances;
- Diversity – the number of features existing within a site;
- Other ecological considerations – such as function, connectivity, size, shape, proximity to other areas; and
- Special features – such as populations of species-at-risk, habitats, unusual features or educational and scientific values.

The province protects ANSI in Ontario by providing information and advice as natural heritage values in land and resource use decisions and management. ANSI are protected in the Planning Act, natural heritage policies under the PPS, and other land use legislation. **Table 8-11** summarizes the ANSI within the RSA and its associated category.

Table 8-11: Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) within the RSA

ANSI	Area within RSA (ha)	Category
Gneiss Rapids	19,869	Candidate ANSI, Earth Science
Upper Ekwan River	32,329	
Ekwan Subglacial Valley	77,940	
Missisa Lake	16,354	
Mistassin Lake	66,027	
Wishak Creek	589	

ANSI	Area within RSA (ha)	Category
Aquatuk Lake	10	
Shibogam Lake	648	
Attawapiskat Ekwan Ridge	27,132	
Wunnummin Hill	46,322	
Sutton – North Washagami Lake	23,410	
Attawapiskat Upriver Section	38,433	Candidate ANSI, Life Science

Source: Ontario Geohub, 2024.

Limited research is available on the policy or protection program for most of these ANSI.

Gneiss Rapids are located on Winisk River. It is described as 5% grasses and 95% sphagnum mosses in a swamp and peatland environment (Webequie First Nation, 2019a). The Upper Ekwan River has been studied by geologists and biologists and was identified in a 1948 report “Foodways in a Muskeg Community” (Honigmann, 1948). The CBLUP describes this area as mostly till with organic deposits with small sections of burn which represents the Cochrane Advance landscape unit (Webequie First Nation, 2019b). Mitassin Lake is mostly till with some soil, sand, silt and stone deposits from glaciers and several drumlins and an esker (Webequie First Nation, 2019a).

8.5.2.3 Conservation Reserve

No conservation reserves intersect the RSA (see **Figure 8-21**).

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9.1 Section 1 Introduction

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9.2 Section 2 Spatial and Temporal Boundaries

None.

9.3 Section 3 Methods

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APPENDIX A

Webequie Supply Road Socio-Economic Community Survey

1. Survey Questions

Meegwetch for taking the time to complete this important survey for the Webequie Supply Road Project. Your input is very important to the Project, whether you're on-reserve or off-reserve.

The purpose of this survey is to capture the full picture of the current social and economic conditions of the Community. Your input is extremely valuable and helpful to us as we want to ensure that the Project includes input from Indigenous Communities as part of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.

For the environmental assessment we will study the potential changes (positive and negative) on social and economic conditions of Webequie First Nation and neighbouring Indigenous communities due to the Webequie Supply Road.

Your answers will be kept **confidential and anonymous** and will only be used for the purposes of the Project. This means that no one will be able to identify your individual answers as the data from all community member responses will be combined, analysed, and presented together.

Your answers will not be judged and we respect any information you can provide. You may choose which questions to answer or not to answer– you are not obligated to answer all of the questions. In addition, you can choose to withdraw your responses at any time. This survey should take approximately 25 minutes to complete.

1.1. Respondent Demographics

1. **What Indigenous community are you a member of?**

- ☐ Webequie First Nation
- ☐ Marten Falls First Nation
- ☐ Kasabonika Lake First Nation
- ☐ Attawapiskat First Nation
- ☐ Nibinamik First Nation
- ☐ Neskantaga First Nation
- ☐ Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation
- ☐ Eabametoong First Nation
- ☐ Aroland First Nation
- ☐ Constance Lake First Nation
- ☐ Fort Albany First Nation
- ☐ Kashechewan First Nation
- ☐ Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
- ☐ Kingfisher Lake First Nation
- ☐ Wapekeka First Nation
- ☐ Wawakapewin First Nation
- ☐ Wunnumin Lake First Nation
- ☐ Ginoogaming First Nation
- ☐ Long Lake #58 First Nation
- ☐ Mishkeegogamang First Nation
- ☐ Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2
- ☐ North Caribou Lake First Nation
- ☐ Other: _____

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2. **Do you live in a First Nation community all year?**

- ☐ Yes, I live in a First Nation community all year (Go to Question 3)
- ☐ No, I live off-reserve in a different First Nation community (Go to Question 3)
- ☐ No, I live off-reserve in a city or town (Go to Question 4)

3. **Which First Nation community do you live in?** (if answered, go to Question 5)

- ☐ Webequie First Nation
- ☐ Marten Falls First Nation
- ☐ Kasabonika Lake First Nation
- ☐ Attawapiskat First Nation
- ☐ Nibinamik First Nation
- ☐ Neskantaga First Nation
- ☐ Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation
- ☐ Eabametoong First Nation
- ☐ Aroland First Nation
- ☐ Constance Lake First Nation
- ☐ Fort Albany First Nation
- ☐ Kashechewan First Nation
- ☐ Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
- ☐ Kingfisher Lake First Nation
- ☐ Wapekeka First Nation
- ☐ Wawakapewin First Nation
- ☐ Wunnumin Lake First Nation
- ☐ Ginoogaming First Nation
- ☐ Long Lake #58 First Nation
- ☐ Mishkeegogamang First Nation
- ☐ North Caribou Lake First Nation
- ☐ Other: _____

4. **Which city or town do you live in?**

- ☐ Thunder Bay
- ☐ Sioux Lookout
- ☐ Timmins
- ☐ Other (Please Specify): _____

5. **If you live in your member community for only part of the year, for how many months do you live there?**

- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 4-6
- ☐ 7-9
- ☐ 10-12
- ☐ Does not apply

6. **Would you like to live in your member community year-round?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to question 8)
- ☐ Don't know/Unsure

7. **If you answered 'yes' to the above, why do you want to live in your member community year-round:**

- ☐ Increased upcoming development such as the WSR or upcoming mining activity
- ☐ Other (Please Specify): _____
- ☐ Don't know/Unsure

8. **What age range are you in (years)?**
- ☐ 15-18
- ☐ 19-30
- ☐ 31-45
- ☐ 46-65
- ☐ 66+

9. **Do you identify as…? Check all that apply.**
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Two-spirit
- ☐ Other (Please Specify): _____
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

10. **What is your marital status?**
- ☐ Single
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Living together but not married (common law)
- ☐ Separated (but still legally married)
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed

11. **Are you the main income earner for your household?**
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12. **What was your total *individual* income in 2020?**
- ☐ No income
- ☐ $1 - $5,000
- ☐ $6,000 - $15,000
- ☐ $16,000 - $30,000
- ☐ $31,000 - $45,000
- ☐ $46,000 - $70,000
- ☐ $71,000+
- ☐ Unsure/Don't Know

13. **Do you have a vehicle or have regular access to a vehicle (truck or car)?**
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. **Do you have a valid driver's license?**
- ☐ Yes (Go to Question 17)
- ☐ No (Go to Question 16)

15. **Are you planning on getting a driver's license?**
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

16. **What language(s) do you speak? Check all that apply.**
- ☐ Anishinabemowen Ojibway
- ☐ Anishininiimowin Oji-Cree (Severn-Ojibway)
- ☐ Mushkegowuk Cree
- ☐ Buckoish/French/Francais
- ☐ Shaganashiimowin/English
- ☐ Other (Please Specify): _____

1.2. Housing

17. **Is your house …**
- ☐ Owned by you/your family
- ☐ Band-owned
- ☐ Rented by you/your family
- ☐ Don't know/Unsure

18. **Approximately how much of your household income is spent on rent or mortgage payments per month?**
- ☐ Less than 30%
- ☐ 30-50%
- ☐ More than 50%
- ☐ Don't Know/Unsure

19. **Approximately how much are your home energy (hydro bill) costs per month during the winter?**
- ☐ $100-$200
- ☐ $201-$300
- ☐ $301-$400
- ☐ $401+
- ☐ Don't know/Unsure

20. **If you use a wood stove to heat your home in the winter, about how much do you spend on wood per month?** _____

21. **Approximately how much are your home energy (hydro bill) costs per month during the summer?**
- ☐ $100-$200
- ☐ $201-$300
- ☐ $301-$400
- ☐ $401+
- ☐ Don't know/Unsure

22. **Approximately how much do you spend on groceries per month?**
- ☐ $0-250

- $251-500
- $501-750
- $751-1000
- $1001-1250
- $1251-1500
- 1501-1750
- 1751-2000
- >2000

23. How many people live in your home?
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7+

24. How many bedrooms does your house have?
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+

25. Do you feel that your home is overcrowded?
- Yes
- No
- Unsure/Don't Know

1.3. Education

26. What is the highest level of education have you completed?
- Elementary school (Go to Question 28)
- Some high school (Go to Question 28)
- Graduated from high school (Go to Question 28)
- Completed high school equivalency (e.g. GED program) (Go to Question 28)
- Completed apprenticeship or trades certification
- Completed accreditations or certifications
- Some college courses
- Graduated from college
- Some university courses
- Graduated from university

27. What did you study?

- ☐ Business Administration
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Computer Science
- ☐ Culinary / Hospitality
- ☐ Earth Science
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Human Resources
- ☐ Health Sciences
- ☐ Indigenous Studies
- ☐ Law
- ☐ Social Science
- ☐ Social Services
- ☐ Trades (Heavy Equipment Operation, etc.) (Please Specify): _____
- ☐ Other (Please Specify): _____

1.4. Employment

28. What is your employment status (check all that apply)?

- ☐ I am not currently employed
- ☐ I cannot work due to disability status (Go to Question 31)
- ☐ I am semi-retired (Go to Question 31)
- ☐ I am retired (Go to Question 31)
- ☐ Employed full-time (Go to Question 32)
- ☐ Employed part-time (Go to Question 32)
- ☐ Self-employed (Go to Question 32)
- ☐ Seasonally employed (includes traditional harvesting) (Go to Question 32)
- ☐ Other (Please Specify):

29. If you are not currently employed, are you searching for work?

- ☐ Yes (Go to Question 31)
- ☐ No

30. If you are not currently searching for work, why is that?

_____
_____
_____
_____

31. Are you receiving any form of income from the following (check all that apply):

- ☐ Ontario Works (Go to Question 36)
- ☐ Ontario Disability Program (Go to Question 36)
- ☐ Old Age Pension (CPP/OAS) (Go to Question 36)
- ☐ Employment Insurance (Go to Question 36)
- ☐ Employee Disability Insurance (Go to Question 36)
- ☐ Accident and Benefit Insurance (Go to Question 36)
- ☐ Other (Please Specify):_____
- ☐ Not receiving any income (Go to Question 38)

32. Do you own, operate, or work for a registered local, Indigenous owned business?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

33. How would you classify your work industry? (check all that apply):

- ☐ Band administration/staff member
- ☐ Elected Official/Band Council
- ☐ Independent service provider
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Childcare
- ☐ Public Works
- ☐ Social Services
- ☐ Health Centre / Nurse Station (offered by Health Canada)
- ☐ Police Services
- ☐ Fire Services
- ☐ Hotel
- ☐ Restaurant
- ☐ Northern Store
- ☐ Gas Station
- ☐ Energy Sector (Hydro One Remotes)
- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Transportation (Ministry of Transportation)
- ☐ Commercial harvesting
- ☐ Other (Please specify): _____

34. Are you employed in mining exploration, or other mining-related industry?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to Question 36)

35. **What sort of work do you do for these mining exploration company/companies?**

Administration	○
Manager/Superintendent	○
Mine Operations	○
Security Services	○
Public and Corporate Relations	○
Environmental Monitoring/Inspection	○
Health and Safety	○
Accommodations	○
Airborne Services	○
Engineering Services	○
Food Services	○
Geological Services	○
Labourer	○
Plant Operations	○
Survey Services	○
Trades	○
Site Maintenance	○
Other (please specify): _____	○

36. **If you are not employed in mining, would you like to be in the future?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to Question 38)
- ☐ Don't know/Unsure

37. **If you would like to be employed in mining, what sort of work would you like to do for these mining exploration company/companies?**

Administration	○
Manager/Superintendent	○
Mine Operations	○
Security Services	○
Public and Corporate Relations	○
Environmental Monitoring/Inspection	○
Health and Safety	○
Accommodations	○
Airborne Services	○
Engineering Services	○
Food Services	○
Geological Services	○
Labourer	○
Plant Operations	○
Survey Services	○
Trades	○
Site Maintenance	○
Other (please specify): _____	○

38. **Do you think there are enough local job opportunities?**

- ☐ Yes (Go to Question 40)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/Unsure

39. **If you don't think there enough local job opportunities, why is that?**

_____
_____
_____
_____

40. **If you think the Webequie Supply Road will provide job opportunities for your First Nation member community, which of the following sectors would you like to seek job opportunities in? (Check all that apply).**

- ☐ Environmental Monitoring
- ☐ Road Maintenance
- ☐ Labourer
- ☐ Heavy Equipment Operator
- ☐ Band Administration
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Economic Development
- ☐ Health

- ☐ Food Services
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Other (Please Specify): _____

41. If you experience barriers to getting or maintaining employment, please identify what they are (check all that apply):

- ☐ Childcare commitments
- ☐ Eldercare commitments
- ☐ Domestic responsibilities e.g. household cleaning, maintenance, etc.
- ☐ Traditional hunting, fishing, gathering needs
- ☐ Lack of education or training
- ☐ No drivers license
- ☐ No transportation
- ☐ Substance Abuse (treatment restrictions, etc.)
- ☐ Racism
- ☐ Sexism
- ☐ Age
- ☐ Remote Location
- ☐ Other (Please Specify): _____
- ☐ Does not apply

42. How many hours per week do you spend doing domestic and care work (e.g. for dependents)?

- ☐ 0 hours
- ☐ 1 to 10 hours
- ☐ 11 to 25 hours
- ☐ 26 to 40 hours
- ☐ More than 40 hours

43. Are you the primary caregiver (childcare, eldercare, etc.) at home?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Does not apply (not a caregiver at all)

1.5. Social Services

44. What social services do you have access to, and how often do you use them?

	No access	Have access, but do not use	Use Daily	Use Weekly	Use Monthly	Use Yearly
Childcare	○	○	○	○	○	○
Eldercare	○	○	○	○	○	○
Wellness Counselling	○	○	○	○	○	○

Youth Support Services/Programs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Choose Life / Suicide Prevention Program	○	○	○	○	○	○
Jordan's Principle	○	○	○	○	○	○
Education Programs Supports for education for students with special needs (Individual Education Plans), Special Needs (Special Education)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Traditional Healing Programs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Food Distribution	○	○	○	○	○	○
Legal Aid	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other (Please Specify): _____	○	○	○	○	○	○

45. Which social services do you need/want, or want more of made available to members of your First Nation member community? (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Childcare
- ☐ Eldercare
- ☐ Wellness Counselling
- ☐ Youth Support Services/Programs
- ☐ Choose Life / Suicide Prevention Program
- ☐ Jordan's Principle
- ☐ Education Programs (supports for education for students with special needs (Individual Education Plans), Special Needs (Special Ed)
- ☐ Traditional Healing Programs
- ☐ Food Distribution
- ☐ Legal Aid
- ☐ Other (Please Specify): _____
- ☐ Does not apply

1.6. Social Cohesion and Culture

For the following questions, please consider your answers *prior to* the COVID-19 pandemic:

46. How would you rate the *number* of social connections such as friends, family, and acquaintances that you have in your community? (1=Low and 5=High):

1 2 3 4 5

47. How would you rate the *quality* of social connections you have in your community? (1=Weak and 5=Strong):

1 2 3 4 5

48. **Do you participate in organized social and/or cultural events/activities in your First Nation member community?**
- ☐ Yes, always
- ☐ Yes, sometimes
- ☐ No, never

49. **Do you have concerns about the loss of traditional culture in your First Nation member community?**
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to Question 51)
- ☐ Unsure/Don't Know

50. **If you have concerns about the loss of traditional culture in your First Nation member community, what are those concerns (check all that apply)?**
- ☐ Loss of traditional land use activities
- ☐ Loss of traditional teachings
- ☐ Loss of traditional language
- ☐ Loss of traditional values
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

51. **If you are concerned about the possible impact(s) of the Webequie Supply Road on traditional culture in your First Nation member, what aspects of culture are you most concerned about being impacted? (check all that apply)**
- ☐ Traditional land use in the Webequie Supply Road area
- ☐ Traditional teachings
- ☐ Traditional language
- ☐ Traditional values
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ I do not have concerns about the possible impact(s) of the Webequie Supply Road on traditional culture
- ☐ Does not apply

1.7. Safety

52. **Are any of the following safety issues of concern in your First Nation member community? (check all that apply)**
- ☐ High crime rates
- ☐ High rates of substance abuse
- ☐ High rates of domestic violence
- ☐ High rates of sexual assault
- ☐ High rates of physical assault
- ☐ Child abuse
- ☐ Child negligence
- ☐ Bullying and cyber bullying
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Prefer not to say

53. Do you have safety concerns related to the Webequie Supply Road?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to Question 56)
- ☐ Don't Know/Unsure

54. If you have safety concerns related to the Webequie Supply Road? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Safety of women
- ☐ Safety of youth
- ☐ Safety of Elders
- ☐ Other group(s) (please specify): _____

55. Please state any specific concerns you have about the safety of women, youth, Elders or other groups related to the Webequie Supply Road:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

56. In terms of safety on the road, do you have safety concerns related to the Webequie Supply Road, what are they (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Pedestrian safety
- ☐ Road/street maintenance
- ☐ Lack of stop signs on road
- ☐ Not enough lighting
- ☐ Speed limits not enforced
- ☐ Animal/wildlife collisions
- ☐ Lack of street lights
- ☐ Drinking and driving
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

1.8. Health and Access to Healthcare Services

57. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your overall physical health? (1 = Bad, 5 = Good)

1 2 3 4 5

58. Which of the following health issues do you have? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Asthma
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Obesity
- ☐ Heart Issues (heart and stroke)
- ☐ Mental health issues (such as depression, anxiety, etc.)
- ☐ Chronic health conditions (chronic pain, etc.)
- ☐ Cancer
- ☐ Arthritis
- ☐ Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder and associated symptoms
- ☐ Skin issues (eczema, staph infections, etc.)
- ☐ Physical disability

- ☐ Smoking/vaping
- ☐ Drug and/or substance addictions
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

59. What health care services do you have access to in your community? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Doctor that comes into the community
- ☐ Nursing care
- ☐ Dietician
- ☐ Health clinic
- ☐ Mental health care/counselling
- ☐ Traditional elder or healer in the community
- ☐ I don't get health care in my community; I fly out to get access to health care
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

60. What health care services do you think your community is in need of? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Culturally appropriate healthcare (i.e., nurses and doctors that speak our native language, using our medicine to help us heal, etc.)
- ☐ Better integration of traditional healing methods into the community health care services
- ☐ Fulltime in-community doctors and nurses
- ☐ Palliative care
- ☐ Mental health care/counselling
- ☐ Long-term care
- ☐ Assisted living care
- ☐ Diabetes management clinic
- ☐ Women and child health care services
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

61. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your access to healthcare (doctors, specialists, clinics, hospitals, etc.)? (1 = Bad, 5 = Good)

1 2 3 4 5

62. If applicable, which of these women and child health care services do you have access to? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- ☐ Antenatal care (during pregnancy)
- ☐ Delivery care
- ☐ Postnatal care
- ☐ Breastfeeding clinic
- ☐ Child immunization
- ☐ Child growth monitoring

63. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your overall dental health? (1 = Bad, 5 = Good)

1 2 3 4 5

64. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your access to dental care (dentists, specialists, dental clinics, etc.)? (1 = Bad, 5 = Good)

1 2 3 4 5

65. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your overall mental health? (1 = Bad, 5 = Good)

1 2 3 4 5

66. **Do you struggle with your mental health?**
- ☐ Yes (please specify – i.e., depression, anxiety, mood disorder, etc.): _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

67. **Do you smoke and/or vape?**
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

68. **If yes, how many cigarettes per day do you smoke?**
- ☐ 10 cigarettes or less
- ☐ 11 – 20 cigarettes
- ☐ 21 – 30 cigarettes
- ☐ More than 30 cigarettes

69. **Have you had challenges (i.e., addiction and/or substance dependence) in the past or currently with drugs and alcohol?**
- ☐ Yes, to both
- ☐ Only with drugs
- ☐ Only with alcohol
- ☐ I do not have challenges with drugs or alcohol use

70. **Overall, how do you rate the health care services in your area?**
- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Above average
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Below average
- ☐ Very poor

71. **Do you think the Webequie Supply Road will improve access to health and dental care?**
- ☐ Yes, I hope so
- ☐ No, I don't think so
- ☐ Don't know/Not sure

72. **How often do you exercise (or get physically active)?**
- ☐ Every day
- ☐ A few times a week
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ Less often than once a week
- ☐ I don't exercise/I am not physically active

73. **Do you think the Webequie Supply Road will impact your overall physical and mental health?**
- ☐ Yes (please specify how): _____
- ☐ No, I don't think so
- ☐ Don't know/Not sure

1.9. Community Health and Well-Being

74. In the following list, what do you think are the three (3) most concerning "health problems" in your community? (Those problems which have the greatest impact on overall community health.) Check only three:

____Aging problems (e.g., arthritis, hearing/vision loss, etc.)	____Heart disease and stroke	____Rape/sexual assault
____Cancers	____High blood pressure	____Respiratory/lung disease
____Child abuse/neglect	____HIV / AIDS	____Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
____Dental problems	____Homicide	____Suicide
____Diabetes	____Infant Death	____Teenage pregnancy
____Domestic Violence	____Infectious Diseases (e.g., hepatitis, tuberculosis, etc.)	____Motor vehicle crash injuries
____Firearm-related injuries	____Mental health problems	____Other_____
___Other_____	___Other_____	

75. In the following list, what do you think are the three (3) most concerning "risky behaviours" in your community? (Those problems which have the greatest impact on overall community health.) Check only three:

____Alcohol abuse	____Not using seat belts/child safety seats
____Being overweight	____Not using birth control
____Dropping out of school	____Unsafe sex
____Drug abuse	____Poor eating habits
____Lack of exercise	____Not getting "shots" to prevent disease
____Other_____	____Other_____
____Other_____	

76. How would you rate the overall health condition of your community?

- ☐ Very unhealthy
- ☐ Unhealthy
- ☐ Somewhat unhealthy
- ☐ Healthy
- ☐ Very healthy

1.10. Recreational Activities

77. What outdoor activities do you do? Check all that apply

- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Gardening
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ Jogging
- ☐ Boating/Canoeing
- ☐ Snowmobiling
- ☐ Harvesting
- ☐ Skating
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ Snowshoeing
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

78. If you don't participate in outdoor recreational activities, why not? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Lack of general equipment/infrastructure
- ☐ Lack of community interest (people to play with, coaching staff, spectators, etc.)
- ☐ Unable to physically
- ☐ No interest
- ☐ Safety concerns
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

79. Are there indoor recreational activities that you take part in? Check all that apply

- ☐ Dance
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Fitness (aerobic, weights, etc.)
- ☐ Indoor sports (basketball, volleyball, etc.)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

1.11. General

Please provide any comments you have regarding the Webequie Supply Road:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

APPENDIX B

Webequie Supply Road Socio-Economic Focus Groups-Sample Questions

WSR Socio-Economic Program – Focus Group Sample Questions and Key Contacts

Key Objectives of the Focus Groups:

- To provide socio-economic information that cannot be answered through the census, community documents, or the survey;
- To supplement and provide more in-depth information than the census, community documents, or the survey;
- To provide information that can be collected in an efficient manner through a group interview approach;
- To support the GBA+ approach and analysis through group interviews with women, Elders, Youth, etc.

Focus Group	Group Composition[i]	Question Topic	Sample Questions[ii]	Key Contact to Solicit Group[iii]
Women	• Mothers and non-mothers • Mix of ages but primarily 25-55	Access to Land, Resources, Infrastructure and Services	• What are the main barriers to women's access to resources? • What are the main barriers to women's access to community and social services? • Do women have equal access to resources/sources as men? If not, why? • Do you have access to the services that address your needs (i.e., childcare so that you can go to work? Women's healthcare? etc.) • What services are needed to address your needs? • What infrastructure or service is important for your community's well-being? (i.e., women's clinic, etc.) • Do you think the WSR will improve cost of living in your community? (i.e., lower food prices, housing, etc.?)	**TBD** Participants may be engaged or identified during in- person/ virtual consultation events or a notice may be circulated to recruit participants
		Safety	• Do you have any safety concerns about the supply road – either during construction or operations? (i.e., gender-based violence against women, construction workers coming in) • Is there gender-based discrimination/violence in your community? (i.e., harassment, violence against women?) • What are ways to limit gender-based discrimination/violence in your community? (i.e., gender-based training, counselling, etc.)	
		Employment	• What kind of work do you normally take on? (i.e., primary caregiver at home vs working, work parttime to care for children at home, etc.) • Who takes most of the responsibility for unpaid work? (i.e., Women due to lack of childcare?) • Do you think there are employment opportunities available for women as a result of the WSR? Provide examples. • Do women have equal access to employment opportunities as men? If not, why? • Is there a wage gap between men and women?	
Men		Access to Land, Resources,	• What are the main barriers to men's access to resources?	**TBD**

Focus Group	Group Composition[i]	Question Topic	Sample Questions[ii]	Key Contact to Solicit Group[iii]
	• Fathers and non-fathers • Mix of ages but primarily 25-55	Infrastructure and Services	• What are the main barriers to men's access to community and social services? • Do men have equal access to resources/sources as women? If not, why? • Do you have access to the services that address your needs (i.e., healthcare, etc.) • What services are needed to address your needs? • What infrastructure or service is important for your community's well-being? (i.e., social programs, counselling, etc.) • Do you think the WSR will improve cost of living in your community? (i.e., lower food prices, housing, etc.?)	Participants may be engaged or identified during in- person/ virtual consultation events or a notice may be circulated to recruit participants
		Safety	• Do you have any safety concerns you have as a result of the WSR? (i.e., gender-based violence against women, construction workers coming in) • Is there gender-based discrimination/violence in your community? (i.e., harassment, violence against women?) • What are ways to limit gender-based discrimination/violence in your community? (i.e., gender-based training, counselling, etc.)	
		Employment	• What kind of work do you normally take on? (i.e., primary caregiver at home vs. working, work part-time to care for children at home, etc.) • Who takes most of the responsibility for unpaid work? (i.e., Women due to lack of childcare?) • Do you think there are employment opportunities available as a result of the WSR? Provide examples. • Is there a wage gap between men and women?	

Youth	• Male and Female
	• Ages 16-25
		Enrolment	• Are you currently enrolled in high school?
			  ○ Why are you doing it in your community? (i.e., cost, courses, community recommendation, safety, stability, family, personal preference)
			  ○ Would you have left to go to high school outside of your community?
				TBD
				
				(e.g., Child & Family Services contact; Principal/ Teacher or other School Board contact) Participants may be engaged or identified during in- person/ virtual consultation events or a notice may be circulated

		Employment	• Do you believe the WSR will open up job opportunities? • What kind of opportunities do you think will open up? (i.e., education opportunities, employment opportunities, accessibility, etc.)	
		Access to Land, Resources, Infrastructure and Services	• What are the main barriers to youth's access to resources? • What are the main barriers to youth's access to community and social services? • What infrastructure or service is important for your community's well-being? (i.e., youth center, youth programs, etc.)	

Focus Group	Group Composition[i]	Question Topic	Sample Questions[ii]	Key Contact to Solicit Group[iii]
		Safety	• Do you have any safety concerns about the supply road – either during construction or operations? (i.e., outsiders coming into the community, violence, etc.)	in order to recruit participants
Land Users/ Knowledge Keepers	• Workshop style • Participants to mark a map of the Project study area and corridor as they answer questions.	Land and Resources	• How often do you hunt/trap/fish/gather plants? • Do you spend a lot of time in the Project study area? • Do you know of any major events that took place in the Project area? (i.e., historic or cultural events? Legends? Family stories?) • What animals/fish do you harvest? (Include specifics – gender, age) • Has this changed over time? • Please indicate on the map where you hunt/trap/fish/gather plants. • Please indicate on the map any areas of cultural/spiritual importance, including burial grounds. • Why are these areas sacred/important? • Please indicate on the map waterways/travel routes you often use to access important areas. • How often do you use these waterways/travel routes? • When do you use them? • Why are they important? • What are the main barriers to your access to your areas to hunt/trap/fish/gather plants? • How often do you carry out traditional land uses? • Has the amount of time you spend on the land changed over time? If so, why? • How are the youth learning their traditional skills?	**TBD** Participants may be engaged or identified during in- person/ virtual consultation events or a notice may be circulated in order to recruit participants
		Cumulative and Long-Term Effects	• Have you noticed any recent disturbances of wildlife or resources in the area? • If so, what are the disturbances and what species are affected? • How have they been affected? • Do you think the WSR will disturb the way you use the land? If so, how? • Are there ways we can limit those disturbances as a result of the WSR?	
		Climate	• Have you noticed any changes in the weather occurring over time? ○ How long have these changes been occurring? • Have you noticed any change in ice formation over time? • Have you noticed any change in how often it rains? • Have you noticed any changes in the air quality and by season? • Have you noticed any permafrost or changes to permafrost?	

Focus Group	Group Composition[i]	Question Topic	Sample Questions[ii]	Key Contact to Solicit Group[iii]
Elders		Access to Land, Resources, Infrastructure and Services	• What are the main barriers to elders' access to resources? • What are the main barriers to elders' access to community and social services? • Do you have access to the services that address your needs (i.e., eldercare, culturally appropriate health care, etc.) ○ What services are needed to address your needs? • What infrastructure or service is important for your community's well-being? (i.e., elders' facility, etc.) • Do you think the WSR will improve cost of living in your community? (i.e., lower food prices, housing, etc.?)	**TBD** Participants may be engaged or identified during in- person/ virtual consultation events or a notice may be circulated in order to recruit participants
		Safety	• Do you have any safety concerns about the supply road – either during construction or operations? (i.e., outsiders coming into the community)	
Off-Reserve Members		General	• What are the good things about the WSR? • What are the bad things about the WSR? • Why did you leave your reserve? i.e., For education opportunities, employment activities, etc. • What kind of opportunities do you think will become available in your community as a result of the WSR? (i.e. accessibility, employment opportunities, educational opportunities) • With the WSR in place or if circumstances were different, would you move back to your community? What would make move back to your community? (i.e., available housing, better social services, better infrastructure, etc.) • What infrastructure or service is important for your community's well-being?	**TBD** Participants may be engaged or identified during in- person/ virtual consultation events or a notice may be circulated in order to recruit participants

[i] It is recommended that 6-8 people participate in each focus group, and each session should last approximately one hour.

[ii] In addition to the sample questions identified, the following general interview questions will be asked to all focus groups except Off-Reserve Members: 1) What are the good things about the WSR? 2) What are the bad things about the WSR? 3) Should people entering the Project Study Area take culturally appropriate protocols/training? Why or why not?

[iii] Key contacts will support initial identification/ recruitment of participants. Focus group facilitators should be part of the same group (e.g, land user to facilitate land user focus group, woman to facilitate women's focus group, elder to facilitate elders focus group, etc.).

APPENDIX C

Webequie Supply Road Socio-Economic Interviews-Key Informant

Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Socio-Economic Key Informant Interviews – Sample Questions & Participants

Topic	Suggested Participant(s) *Note: as available/ applicable*	Sample Questions

General – Chief and Council	Chief and Councillors and/or Former Councillors
	
	(Interview 2-3 based on recommendations/ availability)
		• What do you feel are some of the main social issues that the community is currently facing? (e.g., lack of safety, unemployment, homelessness, poverty)
		  ○ What do you think has caused these issues?
		  ○ Are these issues ongoing or relatively new/emerging issues?
		  ○ What are some potential solutions to address these issues?
		  ○ Do any of these issues disproportionately affect men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups?
		• What are your aspirations or hopes for future social and economic development?
		• What have your experiences with other development projects been like?
		• What kinds of opportunities, including services, do you think might be needed (or more needed) with the WSR?
		  ○ Who will these opportunities or services benefit? Are any of these specific to men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups?
		• What are the major revenue sources in the community?
		• Should we be aware of any studies or reports related to economic development or social services in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?

Child and Family Services	Social Worker
	
	Child & Family Services Representative
		• Generally, what do you feel are some of the main social issues that the community is currently facing, either related to child and family services or other topics? (e.g., lack of safety, unemployment, homelessness, poverty)
		  ○ What do you think has caused these issues?
		  ○ Are these issues ongoing or relatively new/emerging issues?
		  ○ What are some potential solutions to address these issues?
		  ○ Do any of these issues disproportionately affect men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups?
		• What child and family services are provided in the community?
		  ○ How often are these services used – are they frequently over-utilized or under-utilized?
		  ○ Is there usually a wait time to access these services?
		• Do many women and children in the community use these services?

		○ What other kinds of barriers (if any) do women and children face in accessing these services? • Are there adequate services provided within the community to meet the needs of women, children, youth, Elders, single parents, families, and other diverse groups? ○ Is there enough childcare to meet demand in the community? ○ Are there any future plans to upgrade services for women and children in the community? • Should we be aware of any studies or reports related to child and family services in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?
Community Well-Being & Safety	Community Wellness Coordinator Crisis Intervention & Prevention Coordinator Family Wellbeing Program Coordinator	• Generally, what do you feel are some of the main social issues that the community is currently facing, either related to community well-being and safety or other topics? (e.g., lack of safety, unemployment, homelessness, poverty) ○ What do you think has caused these issues? ○ Are these issues ongoing or relatively new/emerging issues? ○ What are some potential solutions to address these issues? ○ Do any of these issues disproportionately affect men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups? • What services are provided in the community to support community well-being and safety? ○ How often are these services used – are they frequently over-utilized or under-utilized? ○ Is there usually a wait time to access these services? • Are there adequate services provided within the community to meet the needs of service-users, including women, children, youth, Elders, single parents, families, and other diverse groups? ○ What kinds of barriers (if any) do community members face in accessing these services? • Can you describe any changes in community well-being and safety you have seen in recent years? ○ What do you consider to be the key measures of community well-being and safety in the community? ○ Does community well-being and safety differ for different groups in the community, such as men, women, youth, Elders, etc.? If so, how?

		• Do you think aspects of community well-being & safety such as crime rate, substance abuse, domestic violence, or other issues could be affected by the WSR, either negatively or positively? ○ Does this differ for different groups in the community, such as men, women, youth, elders, etc.? If so, how? • Are there any educational initiatives, events, or other programs in place to support and/or enhance community well-being and safety in the community? • Are there any future plans to upgrade services for community well-being and safety in the community? • Should we be aware of any studies or reports related to community well-being and safety in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?
Economic Development	Economic Development Officer	• What are your expectations for economic development with the WSR? • What kinds of local businesses are there in the community? • Are there any individual or band owned construction businesses in the community? If so, how many? • Are there other individual or band owned construction businesses in the community that you think may benefit from the WSR? If so, what are these businesses?

Education	Education Director
	
	School Principal
		• Generally, what do you feel are some of the main social issues that the community is currently facing, either related to education or other topics? (e.g., lack of safety, unemployment, homelessness, poverty)
		  ○ What do you think has caused these issues?
		  ○ Are these issues ongoing or relatively new/emerging issues?
		  ○ What are some potential solutions to address these issues?
		  ○ Do any of these issues disproportionately affect men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups?
		  ○ Do these issues impact your students – either directly or indirectly?
		• What levels of schooling are offered in the community?
		• How many children attend school on reserve versus off reserve?
		  ○ What are some of the main reasons a child might attend school off reserve?
		  ○ How does the quality of educational opportunities on reserve compare to off reserve?
		• What are the main barriers to students achieving higher levels of education? (i.e. location, curriculum, teachers, lack of cultural integration into programs, etc.)
		• Is there a traditional education program offered in the community?

		• What are the main educational priorities for the community? ○ What educational services/programs does the community need to achieve these priorities? • Should we be aware of any studies or reports related to education in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?

Employment	Employment Counsellor
	
	Ontario Works Employment Coordinator
		• Generally, what do you feel are some of the main social issues that the community is currently facing, either related to employment or other topics? (e.g., lack of safety, unemployment, homelessness, poverty)
		  ○ What do you think has caused these issues?
		  ○ Are these issues ongoing or relatively new/emerging issues?
		  ○ What are some potential solutions to address these issues?
		  ○ Do any of these issues disproportionately affect men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups?
		• What are your goals and priorities related to employment opportunities with the WSR?
		• What kind of on reserve employment opportunities are there?
		• What kinds of training and skills do community members have?
		  ○ Are there on reserve training opportunities through which members obtain these skills?
		  ○ Are there specific training programs for women, youth, or other diverse groups?
		• Do you think women in the community face greater barriers to employment than men? If so, why?
		• Do you think youth have enough on reserve employment opportunities?
		  ○ If not, what on reserve opportunities do you feel are priorities for youth in the community?
		  ○ What types of supports are required to provide these on reserve opportunities?
		• Should we be aware of any studies or reports related to employment in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?

Housing	Housing Manager	• Generally, what do you feel are some of the main social issues that the community is currently facing, either related to housing or other topics? (e.g., lack of safety, unemployment, homelessness, poverty)
		  ○ What do you think has caused these issues?
		  ○ Are these issues ongoing or relatively new/emerging issues?
		  ○ What are some potential solutions to address these issues?
		  ○ Do any of these issues disproportionately affect men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups?
		• Can you describe your role/job duties as housing manager?
		• Is housing affordable in the community? What is the average house price and average rent?
		  ○ Does housing affordability differ depending on whether homes are band-owned, rented or owned?
		• What kind of demand is there for housing?
		  ○ Are your community members experiencing overcrowding in their homes?
		  ○ Is there enough housing or is more needed?
		• Do a lot of people want to move back to the community?
		• Do you think housing supply could be a problem with the WSR? Why or why not?
		• How would you describe the quality of housing in the community?
		• Are there any plans for additional housing in the community?
		• Should we be aware of any studies or reports related to housing in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?

Infrastructure and Public Works	Public Works Director
	
	Infrastructure Project Manager
		• Generally, what do you feel are some of the main social issues that the community is currently facing, either related to infrastructure or other topics? (e.g., lack of safety, unemployment, homelessness, poverty)
		  ○ What do you think has caused these issues?
		  ○ Are these issues ongoing or relatively new/emerging issues?
		  ○ What are some potential solutions to address these issues?
		  ○ Do any of these issues disproportionately affect men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups?
		• Can you provide a brief overview of the community's power source and any issues related to power distribution in the community?
		• What is the quality of the infrastructure in the community?
		  ○ Does the infrastructure require any repairs?
		  ○ Are there any future plans for infrastructure upgrades?
		• What kind of infrastructure or community facilities do you feel are required to promote community well-being in the community? (i.e. recreational facilities such as a skating rink?)
		• Is the power reliable in the community?
		  ○ Is it costly?
		• Is the sewage system reliable?
		• Is the water clean and drinkable?
		• Have you been under many boil water advisories?
		  ○ If so, what has the government response been?
		• Is the internet fast enough and reliable?
		• Should we be aware of any studies or reports assessing the infrastructure in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?

Lands & Resource Use	Lands & Resources Director Land Use Planning Manager	• What are your key objectives for land and resource use in the community? Do you think the WSR will support these objectives? • What kind of projects are currently underway in the community with respect to land & resources? • Should we be aware of any studies or reports related to land & resource use in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?

Police and Emergency Services	Community-based Police Service officers (2)	• Generally, what do you feel are some of the main social issues that the community is currently facing, either related to community well-being and safety or other topics? (e.g., lack of safety, unemployment, homelessness, poverty)
		  ○ What do you think has caused these issues?
		  ○ What are some potential solutions to address these issues?
		  ○ Do any of these issues disproportionately affect men, women, youth, Elders, or other diverse groups?
		• Is the safety of women and girls and/or Elders an issue?
		• Is domestic violence an issue in the community?
		• Can you describe any changes in community well-being and safety you have seen in the community in recent years?
		  ○ What do you consider to be the key measures of community well-being and safety in the community?
		  ○ Does community well-being and safety differ for different groups in the community, such as men, women, youth, Elders, etc.? If so, how?
		• Do you think aspects of community well-being & safety such as crime rate, substance abuse, domestic violence, or other issues could be affected by WSR, either negatively or positively?
		  ○ Does this differ for different groups in the community, such as men, women, youth, elders, etc.? If so, how?
		• Are crime rates available for the community?
		  ○ Do you feel the WSR will impact crime rates, either in a negative or positive way? How?
		  ○ Will it impact the rate of crimes against women? How?
		  ○ Will it impact the rate of crimes against other diverse groups, such as youth and Elders? How?
		• Is police services capacity sufficient?
		• Should we be aware of any studies or reports related to police and emergency services or community well-being and safety in the community that have been produced in the past 10 years?

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