



October 21, 2022

Chief Brennan Sainnawap
Wapekeka First Nation
P.O. Box 2
Angling Lake, ON
P0V 1B0

**Re: Round 1 Consultation Progress Report
Webequie Supply Road Project
Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment**

Dear Chief Sainnawap:

We hope that this letter finds you and your community well.

As you are aware, Webequie First Nation is the proponent of the Webequie Supply Road Project (the Project), a proposed 107 km all-season road that will facilitate the movement of materials and people from the Webequie Airport to the mineral deposit area near McFaulds Lake. An Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* and an Impact Assessment (IA) under the federal *Impact Assessment Act* is being conducted to identify and assess how the Project may affect the natural environment as well as the health, socio-economic and cultural well-being of communities.

We are providing the attached Consultation Progress Report (electronic and hard copy), which summarizes and documents Round 1 of the Engagement and Consultation Program with Indigenous communities on the Project. The Consultation Progress Report is provided as per the requirements of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the provincial EA process and specifically the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) ToR Notice of Approval that requires the proponent to provide Consultation Progress Reports to Indigenous communities at three key milestones throughout the EA.

In the MECP approval letter with the ToR Notice of Approval, dated October 8, 2021, the Ministry acknowledged “the concerns expressed by several Indigenous communities about the consultation process for the ToR, about their role, and input in the EA process for the proposed Project going forward, impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, and about Ontario’s obligations and efforts to meet the duty to consult.” For more information on the Minister’s approval, go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/webequie-supply-road-project>.

The Consultation Progress Report provides an overview of engagement activities to-date, as well as community-specific summaries of engagement and community feedback and input provided by community members. Consultation Round 1 of the Engagement and Consultation Program occurred in Spring/Summer 2022. Key milestones and topics covered in this round of consultation included:

- Overview of EA/IA process;
- Consultation to date and what we have heard (i.e. during the ToR phase);
- Study Plans for discipline studies (e.g., wildlife, fish, health, etc.);

- Criteria and indicators for evaluation and selection of a preferred route and Project effects assessment;
- Approach for evaluation of alternatives (e.g., routes, aggregate source areas);
- Overview and status of baseline studies;
- Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use (IKLRU) Program; and,
- Consultation approach and next steps.

Webequie First Nation is committed to ongoing engagement with your community through the EA/IA process. Our Project Team is available to discuss the contents of the Consultation Progress Report, and we hope this provides an additional opportunity for the community to learn about the Project and to raise any concerns or comments about potential effects to your community and the environment more broadly that should be considered in the EA/IA.

Webequie First Nation is tentatively planning to conduct Consultation Round 2 for the Project from Winter 2023 to Summer 2023. The following milestones and topics are proposed to be addressed as part of engagement and consultation activities for this round:

- Summary of input received from Consultation Round 1;
- Identification and evaluation of alternatives (routes, aggregate source areas, etc.);
- Preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure (aggregate/ rock source areas, construction camps, access roads), including rationale for selection;
- Preliminary engineering design elements of WSR (bridges/culverts); and,
- Next steps and schedule.

We welcome any feedback and input your community may have on the attached Consultation Progress Report, so that issues or concerns can be addressed in the EA/IA process for the Project. Should your community have any questions or comments on the Consultation Progress Report, please feel free to contact me at 807-472-6147 or michael.fox@supplyroad.ca.

Thank you very much and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Michael Fox



Regional Consultation Lead
Webequie Supply Road

c.c. Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
Sasha McLeod, Special Project Officer, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
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Consultation Progress Report – Round 1

Webequie Supply Road Project

Prepared for:

Webequie First Nation

Submitted to:

Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

October 24, 2022

Internal Ref: 661910 › Draft › V1

Notice to Reader

The Extension Request for Impact Assessment (“the document”) for the Webequie Supply Road Project contains the expression of the professional opinion of SNC-Lavalin Inc. (“SNC-Lavalin”) as to the matters set out herein, using its professional judgment and reasonable care. It is to be read in the context of the “Agreement” between SNC-Lavalin and Webequie First Nation (the “Client”), and the methodology, procedures and techniques used, SNC-Lavalin’s assumptions, and the circumstances and constraints under which its mandate was performed. This document is written solely for the purpose stated in the Agreement, and for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Client, whose remedies are limited to those set out in the Agreement. This document is meant to be read as a whole, and sections or parts thereof should thus not be read or relied upon out of context.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The proposed Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project (the Project) is a new all-season road of approximately 107 kilometres (km) in length from Webequie First Nation to the mineral deposit area near McFaulds Lake (also referred to as the Ring of Fire) in the James Bay lowlands. The Project proponent is Webequie First Nation, a Matawa First Nation Ojibway community located in northwestern Ontario, approximately 525 km north of Thunder Bay, with remote access by air and seasonal winter road.

A road corridor of 35 metres (m) in width, within the broader approximately 2 km wide preliminary preferred corridor, is proposed for the Project to accommodate a permanent two (2)-lane gravel surface all-season road. Waterbody crossing structures, aggregate extraction and processing areas, construction camps and storage and laydown yards also form part of the Project components.

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 Project subject to an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Project is also subject to an Impact Assessment (IA) through meeting the requirements of the federal *Impact Assessment Act*.

In August 2020, a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EA was submitted to MECP. As part of the development of the ToR, consultation and engagement was initiated with 22 Indigenous communities (identified by the province as requiring consultation), as well as the public, government agencies, and stakeholders, and comments received during the review period were incorporated into the ToR as applicable.

In October 2021, a Notice of Approval (NoA) of the ToR was circulated by MECP, defining the framework for preparing the EA. This includes adhering to the approved ToR and all amendments made during its development. Finally, a Notice of Commencement (NoC) of the EA was published in November 2021, signifying the formal start of the EA/IA coordinated assessment process and related consultation and engagement activities.

1.2 Purpose

This Consultation Progress Report seeks to fulfill requirements that are defined within the NoA of the ToR. Per Amendment 3, "Consultation Reporting at Key EA Milestones", MECP specifies that Progress Reports must be prepared for consultation activities associated with each EA milestone, which have been conceptualized as the three consultation rounds further detailed in **Section 2.3** below. Furthermore, the Consultation Progress Report must:

- › Be organized by Indigenous community;
- › Contain a consultation log and summary that tracks consultation activities, information shared by Webequie First Nation with the community, any community input and Webequie First Nation's responses to such input; and
- › Contain a discussion of how any input and information provided by Indigenous communities have informed the development of the EA milestone.

The Consultation Progress Report must be provided to both MECP and each Indigenous community, with a copy of the community-specific portion of the Consultation Progress Report that relates to that community, before proceeding to the next EA milestone. The WSR Project Team will respond to any questions or concerns raised by MECP or an Indigenous community in response to the Consultation Progress Report including making any revisions to the Consultation Progress Report as considered applicable. Each final Consultation Progress Report must be appended to the record of consultation submitted with the Environmental Assessment Report/ Impact Statement (EAR/IS) for the Project. Therefore, this Consultation Progress Report supports the comprehensive documentation of consultation and engagement activities to facilitate successful completion of the EA/IA process for the Project.

The purpose of this Consultation Progress Report is to summarize the Engagement and Consultation Program for the EA/IA process and to document the results of activities carried out as part of Consultation Round 1. Key outcomes (including activities undertaken, feedback received, and responses provided by the Project Team)- are documented for each of the 22 Indigenous communities being consulted as part of the Project.

2 Engagement and Consultation Program Background

2.1 Principles and Approach

2.1.1 Webequie-Led Indigenous Communities Consultation

The plan for Consultation Round 1 with Indigenous communities was developed in accordance with the following overarching components:

- › Elders' guiding principles;
- › Webequie First Nation Three-Tier approach to Indigenous community consultation/engagement; and
- › Requirements of applicable legislation, policies and guidelines.

Elders provided guidance to the Project Team to ensure consultation and engagement were conducted in a respectful manner that reflects the culture and tradition of the Webequie people and their clans and neighbours outside the community. The Project Team ensured that all Project-related consultation and engagement activities were inclusive of the following guiding principles (and will continue to do so for Consultation Rounds 2 and 3):

- › Mutual recognition of nation to nation;
- › Mutual recognition of ancestral knowledge;
- › Mutual recognition of traditional knowledge and practices;
- › Mutual recognition of clan families and relationships;
- › Mutual recognition of sustainable livelihood; and
- › Mutual recognition of traditional protocols.

2.1.2 Duty to Consult with Indigenous Peoples

As further explained in the ToR, the Project falls under the jurisdiction of both the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act), and the federal *Impact Assessment Act*. The Crown can delegate some procedural aspects of the Duty to Consult to Project proponents, and Project proponents are obliged under the EA Act to consult with all interested parties, including Indigenous communities. To ensure each round of engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities is meaningful, it is recognized that Indigenous communities have varying rights and interests in respect of the Project, and community requests for different approaches to consultation and engagement have been accommodated wherever possible to mitigate impacts to their rights and interests. In addition, the “public” consultation process is also open to Indigenous communities.

The MECP and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) (now Ministry of Northern Development and Ministry of Mines), on behalf of the Ontario Government, have also formally delegated some procedural aspects of consultation required under the EA Act to Webequie First Nation, as proponent.

While some Duty to Consult responsibilities have been delegated to the proponent, the Government of Ontario (MECP and MNDM) will still retain overall responsibilities related to the Crown’s obligations under the Duty to Consult.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MECP, MNDM and Webequie First Nation, setting out how roles and responsibilities related to the Duty to Consult will be shared between the Crown and the proponent, was finalized on February 7, 2020. In general, Webequie First Nation is responsible for carrying out Statutory Consultation in respect of the Project in accordance with the EA Act and will consult with the Aboriginal Communities for that purpose; and the Crown may rely on Statutory Consultation in fulfilling its Duty to Consult. Further details regarding Webequie First Nation’s roles and responsibilities in conducting Statutory Consultation for the Project are provided in Section 10.1.2 of the ToR.

2.2 Identification of Indigenous Communities and Organizations

In coordination with other provincial government agencies, Ontario (MECP) identified a list of 22 potentially affected Indigenous communities that are to be consulted by the WSR Project Team as part of its Project planning. These communities were identified by Ontario, as per direction provided in the letter from MECP to the Webequie First Nation on December 19, 2018, as potentially having their rights and/or interests affected by the Project. Of these Indigenous communities, 16 were identified as potentially being affected by the Project, while six other Indigenous communities may have an interest in the Project. For the purposes of the ToR, all 22 communities will be referred to as potentially affected. The full list of communities is presented in **Table 2-1** below.

Table 2-1: Indigenous Communities to be Engaged/Consulted

Tribal Council or Affiliation	Community or Organization
Matawa Tribal Council	Aroland First Nation Constance Lake First Nation Eabametoong First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation Long Lake #58 First Nation Marten Falls First Nation Neskantanga First Nation Nibinamik First Nation Webequie First Nation
Mushkegowuk Council	Attawapiskat First Nation Fort Albany First Nation Kashechewan First Nation

Table 2-1 (Cont’d): Indigenous Communities to be Engaged/Consulted

Tribal Council or Affiliation	Community or Organization
-------------------------------	---------------------------

Shibogama Council	Kasabonika Lake First Nation Kingfisher 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	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) Mishkeegogamang First Nation Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation
Métis Nation of Ontario	Métis Nation of Ontario – Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territories Protocol Area (“Region 2”)

2.3 Overview of Consultation and Engagement Program

The Engagement and Consultation Program for the EA/IA has been categorized into three different rounds which are associated with distinct Project milestones, topics, and timelines. These rounds are defined in the sections below.

2.3.1 Round 1

Consultation Round 1 of the Engagement and Consultation Program occurred in Spring/Summer 2022. Key milestones and topics covered in this round of consultation included:

- › Overview of EA/IA process;
- › Consultation to date and what we have heard (i.e., during the ToR phase);
- › Study Plans for discipline studies;
- › Criteria and indicators for evaluation and selection of a preferred route and Project effects assessment;
- › Approach for evaluation of alternatives (routes, aggregate areas);
- › Overview and status of baseline studies;
- › Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use (IKLRU) Program; and,
- › Consultation approach and next steps.

2.3.2 Round 2

Consultation Round 2 will be conducted from Fall 2022/Winter 2023 to Summer 2023. The following milestones and topics are proposed to be addressed as part of engagement and consultation activities for this round:

- › Summary of input received from Consultation Round 1;
- › Identification and evaluation of alternatives;
- › Preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure (aggregate/ rock source areas, construction camps, access roads), including rationale for selection;
- › Preliminary engineering design elements of WSR (bridges/culverts); and,
- › Next steps and schedule.

2.3.3 Round 3

Consultation Round 3 is proposed to take place from Fall 2023/Winter 2024 to Winter 2026. As the final round of engagement and consultation activities for the EA/IA process, the following milestones and topics will be the focus for this round:

- › Summary of input received from Consultation Round 2;
- › Summary of preliminary effects assessment of the Project;
- › Proposed impact management, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program; and,
- › Next steps in EA/IA process.

2.4 Schedule of Consultation Activities

Table 2-2 below provides a high-level schedule of activities that are planned to occur in Consultation Rounds 1, 2, and 3 of the Engagement and Consultation Program for the Project. The schedule is subject to change. **Section 3** provides more detailed activity-specific schedules for activities that occurred during Consultation Round 1.

Table 2-2: Planned Activities by Consultation Round

Regulatory Milestone/Activity	Consultation Activity	Date(s)
CONSULTATION ROUND # 1		
Notice of Commencement of EA/IA	Notification letters, emails, fax	October – November 2021
Topic-Specific Information Sessions	Virtual live-stream sessions and Wawatay radio call-in shows	October 2021 – June 2022
Indigenous Knowledge and Land and Resource Use (IKLRU) Program	Invitation letters	December 2021
Socio-Economic Data Collection	Invitation letters	December 2021
	Key informant interviews and focus groups	October 2021 – July 2022
Chief and Council Meetings	Project update meetings with Webequie First Nation Chief and Council (as requested)	March – August 2022
Community Meetings	Round #1 virtual community information sessions with all 22 potentially affected communities	April – September 2022
	In-person on-reserve community meetings with Webequie First Nation	October – November 2021

Regulatory Milestone/Activity	Consultation Activity	Date(s)
Public Information Centre (PIC) #1	Open House for interested community members in Thunder Bay	August 2022
Project Website	Updates to Project website with communication materials, videos, and key Project information	Ongoing

CONSULTATION ROUND #2

Development and Evaluation of Alternatives	Notification letters, emails, fax	Winter 2023
Topic-Specific Information Sessions	Virtual live-stream sessions and Wawatay radio call-in shows	Fall 2022/Winter 2023
Chief and Council Meetings	Project update meetings with Chief and Councils from all potentially affected communities (as requested)	Winter 2023 to Summer 2023
Community Meetings	Round #2 virtual community information sessions with all 22 potentially affected communities	Winter 2023 to Summer 2023
	In-person on-reserve community meetings with all potentially affected communities (as requested)	Winter 2023 to Summer 2023
Off-Reserve Community Meeting	Open-house session in Thunder Bay	Summer 2023
Project Website	Updates to Project website with communication materials, videos, and key Project information	Ongoing

CONSULTATION ROUND #3

Topic-Specific Information Sessions	Virtual live-stream sessions and Wawatay radio call-in shows	Fall 2023
Chief and Council Meetings	Engagement regarding Draft EAR/IS with Chief and Councils from all potentially affected communities (as requested)	Winter 2024 to Fall 2024
Community Meetings	In-person on-reserve community meetings with all potentially affected communities (as requested) regarding draft EAR/IS	Winter 2024 to Fall 2024
Off-Reserve Community Meeting	Open-house sessions in Thunder Bay regarding Draft EAR/IS	Fall 2024
Notice of Draft Environmental Assessment Report/ Impact Statement (EAR/IS) for Review	Notification letters, emails, fax	Winter 2025
Notice of Submission of Final EAR/IS for Review	Notification letters, emails, fax	Spring 2026
Project Website	Updates to Project website with communication materials, videos, and key Project information	Ongoing

3 Engagement and Consultation Activities During the EA/IA Process To-Date

During Consultation Round 1, various virtual and in-person activities were facilitated by the Project Team to ensure proactive engagement and consultation with all 22 potentially affected Indigenous communities. The following subsections provide an overview of all activities that have been carried out as part of Consultation Round 1, including dates, involved communities, general summaries, and other details as applicable. Further information is provided in the detailed Consultation Log in **Appendix A**.

3.1 Chief and Council Meetings

Four Chief and Council meetings were held during Consultation Round 1, which involved providing Project updates, study-specific updates, and other information to Webequie First Nation’s Chief Wabasse, and Council and Weenusk First Nation’s Chief Hunter and Council. Details are provided in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1: Consultation Round 1 Chief and Council Meetings

#	Community	Date/Time	Meeting Summary
1	Webequie First Nation	March 30, 2022 12:00 PM	A meeting was held with Chief Wabasse and Council to provide a Project update to new council members following the recent election of officials, and to discuss upcoming EA/IA activities.
2	Webequie First Nation	June 20, 2022 2:00 PM	A meeting was held with Chief Wabasse and Council to provide an update on the socio-economic and human health studies and to coordinate a community visit to collect primary information to support both studies.
3	Weenusk First Nation	July 19, 2022 10:00 AM	A meeting was held with Chief Hunter and Council to provide information on topics in Consultation Round 1 – EA/IA updates, study plans for valued components, assessment approach, IK, consideration of alternatives and consultation approach and next steps.
4	Webequie First Nation	August 26, 2022 11:00AM	A meeting was held with Chief Wabasse and Council to provide an update on the IKLRU program and to discuss next steps.

3.2 Virtual Community Information Sessions/ Open Houses

22 virtual community information sessions were held during Consultation Round 1 – one with each of the potentially affected Indigenous communities at the start of each week. The Virtual Information Sessions were scheduled for 1.5 hours. The actual length of the meetings varied depending on the number of participants and questions / comments raised. **Table 3-2** shows the schedule of sessions. Session duration and number of community participants is listed by each Indigenous community in **Section 4**. An invitation letter and poster were sent to the Chief of each community at least two weeks in advance of the event. Each session was hosted by the Project Team via Zoom and live-streamed via YouTube. Beginning in April 2022, each session was advertised in advance via event posts on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Detailed analytics for each Virtual Community Information Session are presented in **Section 4**. Sessions included an introduction to the current status of the WSR Project, a pre-recorded video presentation summarizing topics for engagement and EA/IA activities to date, and a Q&A period, during which time responses were provided to questions raised by the community during the EA ToR phase. At the session, attendees were also encouraged to pose new questions to the Project team. After each session, the video of the recorded virtual information session was posted to the Project

Website and YouTube, ensuring community members who were unable to attend could still watch the session pertaining to their community and submit questions and feedback. Comments received from each community and responses provided by the Project Team are detailed in **Section 4.1**.

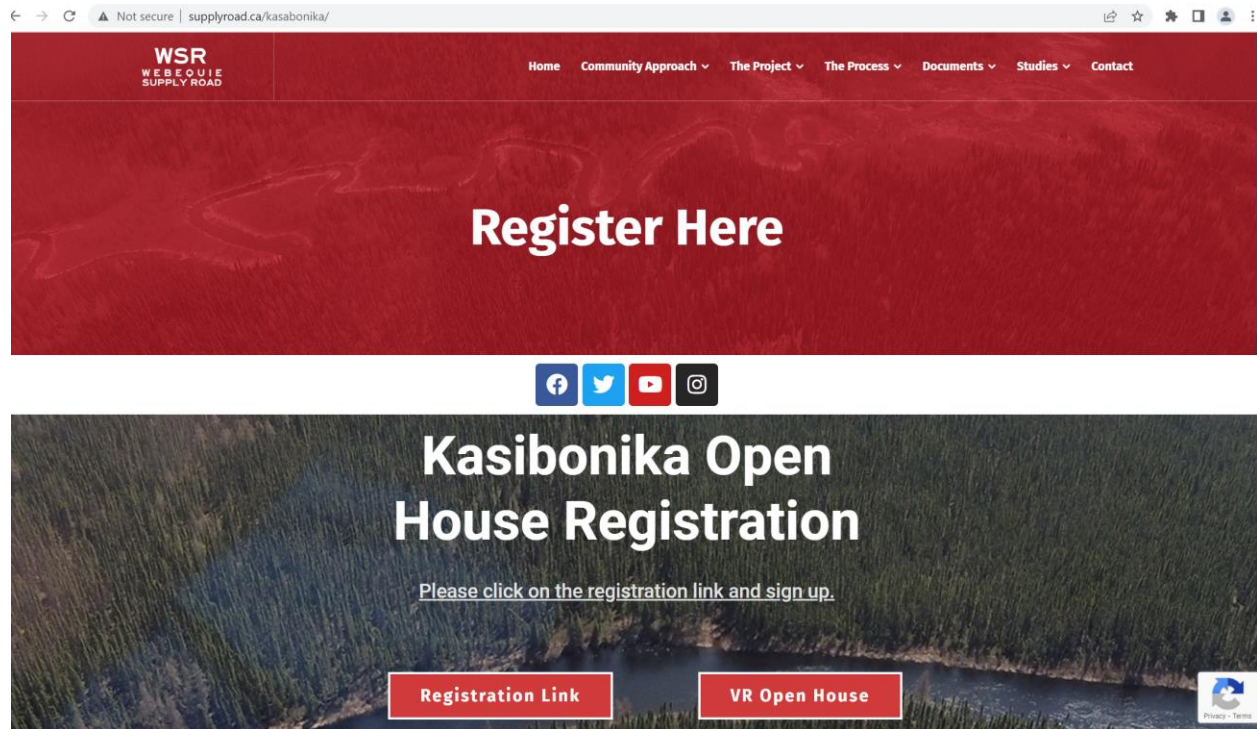


Figure 3-1: Example of custom webpage for Live Virtual Community Information Session



Figure 3-2: Example of Facebook post for Live Virtual Community Information Session



Figure 3-3: Example of LinkedIn post for Live Virtual Community Information Session

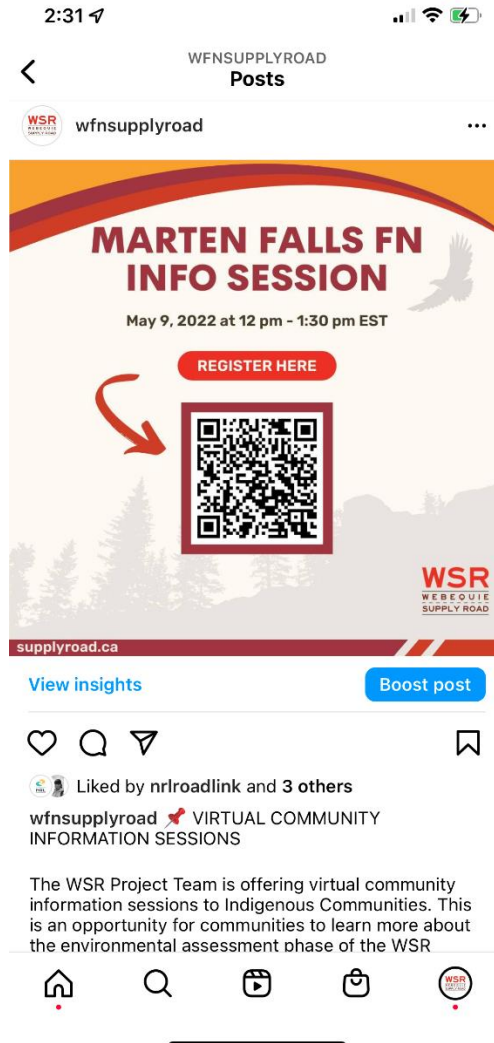


Figure 3-4: Example of Instagram post for Live Virtual Community Information Session

Table 3-2: Schedule for Consultation Round 1 Community Virtual Information Sessions

#	Indigenous Community/ Group	Session Date	Invitation Letter
1	Webequie First Nation	Monday, April 4, 2022	Tuesday, March 29, 2022
2	Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation	Monday, April 11, 2022	Tuesday, March 29, 2022
3	Kaschechewan First Nation	Tuesday, April 19, 2022	Monday, April 4, 2022
4	Attawapiskat First Nation	Monday, April 25, 2022	Monday, April 11, 2022
5	Fort Albany First Nation	Monday, May 2, 2022	Tuesday, April 19, 2022
6	Marten Falls First Nation	Monday, May 9, 2022	Monday, April 25, 2022
7	Neskantaga First Nation	Monday, May 16, 2022	Monday, May 2, 2022
8	Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Tuesday, May 24, 2022	Monday, May 9, 2022
9	Eabametoong First Nation	Monday, May 30, 2022	Monday, May 16, 2022
10	Nibinamik First Nation	Monday, June 6, 2022	Tuesday, May 24, 2022
11	Aroland First Nation	Monday, June 13, 2022	Tuesday, May 31, 2022
12	Constance Lake First Nation	Monday, June 20, 2022	Tuesday, June 7, 2022
13	Ginoogaming First Nation	Monday, June 27, 2022	Monday, June 13, 2022
14	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation	Monday, July 4, 2022	Thursday, June 23, 2022
15	Kingfisher Lake First Nation	Monday, July 11, 2022	Monday, June 27, 2022
16	Long Lake #58 First Nation	Monday, July 18, 2022	Monday, July 4, 2022
17	Mishkeegogamang First Nation	Monday, July 25, 2022	Monday, July 11, 2022
18	North Caribou Lake First Nation	Tuesday, August 2, 2022	Monday, July 18, 2022
19	Wapekeka First Nation	Monday, August 8, 2022	Monday, July 25, 2022
20	Wawakapewin First Nation	Monday, August 15, 2022	Tuesday, August 2, 2022
21	Wunnumin Lake First Nation	Monday, August 22, 2022	Monday, August 8, 2022
22	Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2	Monday, August 29, 2022	Monday, August 15, 2022

3.3 Project Notifications and Updates

3.3.1 Notices/ Invitations (i.e., Notice of Commencement of EA/IA)

Notices regarding key Project milestones and invitation letters for data gathering activities were sent to Indigenous communities via email, mail (Canada Post), and fax (where applicable), as further described in **Table 3-3**.

Table 3-3: Notices/ Invitations Circulated During Consultation Round 1

#	Notice	Date(s)	Description
1	Notice of Commencement of EA	October 29, 2021 – Email November 3, 2021 – Mail	The NoC of EA/IA was circulated to all Indigenous communities/groups and stakeholders on the WSR Project contact list. The notice informed recipients that the ToR had been approved- with amendments- by MECP.
2	IKLRU Program Invitation Letter	December 13, 2021 – Email December 13, 2021 – Mail December 13, 2021 – Fax	The IKLRU invitation letter was sent to all 22 Indigenous communities to share information regarding the program and solicit participation.
3	Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Invitation Letter	December 21, 2021 – Email December 20, 2021 – Mail December 20, 2021 – Fax	The Socio-Economic invitation letter was sent to all 22 Indigenous communities to introduce the socio-economic primary data collection program, including its purpose, methods, and criteria, and to solicit participation.
4	Engagement Options Letter #1 (with information on virtual community information sessions, including past sessions)	July 12, 2022 – Email July 12, 2022 – Fax	A letter was distributed to all 22 Indigenous communities to summarize all available engagement options and provide an overview of the status of virtual community information sessions, including where to access past sessions
5	Engagement Options Letter #2 (with information on the Socio-Economic primary data collection program)	July 26, 2022 – Email July 26, 2022 – Fax	A letter was distributed to all 22 Indigenous communities as a refresher on all available engagement options, also providing an overview of the Socio-Economic primary data collection program and reminding communities of opportunities for participation
6	Engagement Options Letter #3 (with information on Consultation Round 2 topics)	August 12, 2022 – Email August 12, 2022 – Fax	A letter was distributed to all 22 Indigenous communities as another refresher on all available engagement options, also providing information on the conclusion of Consultation Round 1 and topics to be covered in the upcoming Consultation Round 2.
7	Notice of Public Information Centre #1	August 17, 2022 – Newspaper August 18, 2022 – Email August 23, 2022 – Email	A Notice of PIC #1 was published in local newspapers, posted on the project website, and sent to all 22 Indigenous communities/groups and stakeholders on the WSR Project contact list. The notice informed recipients of the Project purpose, planning process, and PIC details including date, time, location, and contact information.

3.3.2 Newsletters

Monthly newsletters providing up-to-date information on various aspects of the Project (such as field studies, study plans, the IKLRU program, socio-economic primary data collection, and consultation events) were sent to all 22 potentially affected Indigenous communities via email, mail (50 copies through Canada Post), and fax, as further described in **Table 3-4**. They are also posted on the Project website, ensuring they are accessible to all community members. Additionally, WFN receives a community-specific newsletter

on a quarterly basis that provides information and updates on the WSR Project with highlights on community participation and community-specific activities.

Table 3-4: Monthly Newsletters Circulated During Consultation Round 1

Issue	Month	Description of Newsletter Contents
5	November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Description of ToR approval and “what happens now that the ToR has been approved?” › Summary of (and link to) the Notice of Commencement of EA/IA › Overview of baseline studies and identification of alternatives to be completed › General description of the engagement and consultation approach
6	January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Reminder of ToR approval and what this means for the Project/ the difference between the federal IA and provincial EA › Overview of the role of study plans › List of field studies completed in the past year › What to expect in 2022
7	February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Reminder of the difference between federal IA and provincial EA › Overview of the coordinated assessment process › Description of what will be studied (valued components/indicators) › Summary of the IKLRU program, including its purpose, phases, and its role in the EA/IA
8	March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Reminder of what the coordinated provincial-federal assessment process entails › Overview of IKLRU, including the purpose of the IKLRU program, its importance in the EA/IA, and information being gathered › Summary of the socio-economic primary data collection program
9	April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Description of the current stage of the Project › Overview of upcoming virtual community information sessions › Summary of the socio-economic program, including “what are socio-economics?”, what the primary data collection program entails, and methods that will be used to gather this information
10	May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Quick refresher on the current phase of the EA/IA › Description of virtual community information sessions › Summary of valued components, indicators, and fact sheets- which explain how these will be studied › Overview of additional upcoming engagement opportunities
11	June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Update on virtual community information sessions, including communities whose sessions have already occurred and those whose sessions are upcoming, how to watch recordings and submit comments, and a description of what each session involves › Overview of ongoing field studies
12	July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › General description of the objective of field studies for the Project › Definition of key terms associated with cultural heritage assessment, including built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and cultural heritage resources › Summary of the objectives of fish and fish habitat assessments › Overview of ongoing virtual community information sessions
13	August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Overview of the outcomes/wrap-up of the virtual community information sessions › Introduction to activities and topics for Consultation Round 2 › Promotion of the upcoming WSR Open House on August 25th
14	September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Overview of July 26 & 27 community visit and upcoming fall visit › Introduction to Country Foods and Human Health surveys › Refresher on Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection and IKLRU Programs › Summary of August 25 WSR Open House

3.4 Project Website

A dedicated website, www.supplyroad.ca, was created at the beginning of the Project (during the ToR phase) to provide Indigenous communities, Indigenous organizations and councils, and stakeholders with information on the Project, post notifications of upcoming activities and engagement events, and provide access to important documentation for review. Public notices/invitations, community information session presentations, and other relevant documents and communication materials (such as fact sheets and study plan summaries) are posted on the website to provide Indigenous community members and stakeholders easy access to Project information.

Throughout Consultation Round 1, recorded topic-specific live-streaming information sessions and community virtual information sessions have also been continuously uploaded to the website, ensuring community members who are unable to attend sessions can access Project information and provide their feedback to the Project team.

In addition, a unique webpage was created for each of the 22 potentially affected communities, which can be accessed by entering “[supplyroad.ca/\[communityname\]](http://supplyroad.ca/[communityname])” into the web browser. Each community-specific webpage contains the following:

- › Videos with information on a range of topics related to the WSR Project;
- › A live-stream recording of the community virtual information session;
- › A Virtual Reality (VR) open house walkthrough, replicating a traditional open house setting with display boards presenting information on various aspects of the Project;
- › A sign-up form for the WSR monthly newsletter; and,
- › A comment form, allowing community members to ask questions or provide feedback to the Project Team with ease.

The website also provides interested individuals contact information. It is updated regularly to ensure all relevant documentation to date is readily available and to provide information and notices in a practical manner. Key documents are provided in Ojibway, Cree, Oji-Cree, French, and English.

3.4.1 Frequently Asked Questions

Table 3-5 below contains a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and corresponding responses, which represent key themes related to the WSR Project and are available to all interested parties on the Project website.

Table 3-5: FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
<p>Will there be a hydro component to the Webequie Supply Road and if so, who will be the hydro provider?</p>	<p>At this time, Webequie First Nation is seeking approval for the development of a supply road; however, the basic corridor for the supply road that will undergo an Environmental / Impact Assessment will be wide enough to accommodate future communications (e.g., broadband fibre optic line) and low voltage power distribution lines, if and when connection is established to the provincial highway and electricity grid system. However, given the current uncertainty regarding how and when power and communications infrastructure will be extended into the Project area, these components have not been included in the scope of the Project. This means that details, such as potential hydro providers, are currently unknown.</p>
<p>How will the differences in vegetation types (i.e., string bogs versus muskegs) be accounted for in planning, constructing and operations and maintenance?</p>	<p>A vegetation study will be done to understand vegetation that may be affected by the Webquie Supply Road, as well as the species that inhabit those vegetation types. As part of the study, surveys will be conducted to collect information on various vegetation types, such as string bogs and muskeg. The goal of these surveys is to identify and consider the effects of the Project on vegetation, as well as to provide recommendations for minimizing negative environmental, health, social, project constructability and economic effects related to vegetation during construction and operation/maintenance of the Project.</p> <p>Potential effects to Upland, Wetland and Riparian Landcovers/Habitats will be assessed by determining the removals of landcover types because of the Project, including quality of vegetation available to wildlife species. The Assessment will also examine potential effects to any known or assumed critical life cycle role the habitats provide in the study areas.</p> <p>To learn more about how the Project Team is planning to study vegetation review the Fact Sheet and Study Plan Summary.</p>
<p>How will the Project Team determine the types of technologies for construction that best suit the environmental and geographic conditions of the Project area?</p>	<p>There are various technically feasible design and construction solutions for implementing all-season roads in Canada’s northern regions which are being considered for this Project as well as proven technologies for construction of all-season roads in the challenging geographical conditions (e.g., use of styrofoam slabs and geotextile/geogrid in peat/muskeg soils).</p>

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
<p>Has consideration been given to using existing eskers as aggregate sources?</p>	<p>There are number of aggregate sources that provide options for extracting materials needed for the Project; however, several source locations will require further evaluation in the Environmental / Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Esker formations are a source option and are present along the north-south section and towards the end of the east-west section of the proposed supply road corridor.</p> <p>Temporary and permanent access roads from aggregate source locations to the Webequie Supply Road corridor will be required during the construction and operation phases of the Project. Alternative routes for access roads will be considered in the EA, with the goal of minimizing haul route distances and negative effects on the environment.</p> <p>Currently, the Project Team is collecting data on the terrain and information from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing published literature; • Mapping; and • Field survey results. <p>Data gathered will be incorporated into a map for evaluation which will include information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on eskers and other post-glacial deposits; • Geomorphology, topography and geotechnical characteristics in Project area, including the presence and distribution of eskers and permafrost; and <p>Ground instability.</p> <p>Additionally, terrain and soil investigations will facilitate the identification of potential aggregate sources, characterization of stream crossings and mapping of route alternatives.</p> <p>To learn more about how the Project Team is planning to study geology, terrain, and soils review the Fact Sheet and Study Plan Summary.</p>
<p>How tall will the road be in comparison to the muskeg?</p>	<p>Where the proposed road is located in muskeg/peatlands there is low relief and the surface of the road will likely be typically about 1 m in height over the peatlands. Approaches to build the road may include the use of geo-fabric/geo-grid reinforcement at the road base-peatland interface with aggregate/fill material placed over it, with some compression of the peat expected. In this design scenario there would be minimal removal of the muskeg/peat. Other techniques to build roads over peatland include use of wick/sand drains, floating foundations, and piled foundation. Details of the optimal engineering solution and techniques for building in the road in the peatlands will presented the Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement for the Project.</p>

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
<p>How will construction on the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) be initiated? Will construction start at one end and proceed along the length of the road?</p>	<p>Construction of the WSR is estimated to occur within a 33-month period, after securing all of the required approvals, permits, licences, authorizations and clearances to construct.</p> <p>Construction will occur in two stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-construction: Activities will include field delineation of vegetation buffers and known nearby features of cultural or environmental importance that may require specialized application of mitigation measures or monitoring during construction; and • Construction: Activities will continue year-round, with some construction activities being staged and implemented to avoid or minimize potential effects to Indigenous traditional land and resource use areas and/or culturally sensitive areas/uses, and life cycle periods of wildlife (i.e., by avoiding the clearing of vegetation during the migratory bird nesting period). <p>The detailed construction plans and sequencing of the Project will be determined during the Detailed Design phase through discussions between Indigenous communities and the construction contractor.</p>
<p>Why is the Project Team proposing to build a supply road rather than flying materials to mine sites in the Ring of Fire area?</p>	<p>The Webequie First Nation (WFN) Reserve is currently serviced by the Webequie Airport. Since 2015, the community has been involved in the investigation of an all-season road corridor to better service the community and provide economic development opportunities for its members and businesses that reside in or around the community's reserve and traditional territory. The Webequie Supply Road could be constructed and operated as a facility that only provides a connection between WFN and the McFaulds Lake area to serve mineral exploration and future mining development activities, with no connection to the provincial highway system. However, with implementation of the Project and future mining and road infrastructure developments in the McFaulds Lake area, it is likely that WFN could gain year-round access to the provincial highway system.</p>

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
<p>How will the Indigenous Traditional Knowledge studies be undertaken?</p>	<p>The Webequie Supply Road Project Team is commencing an Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use (IKLRU) Program. The IKLRU Program will provide important information that will inform the Environmental / Impact Assessments. The information gathered through the IKLRU Program will be used in combination with scientific approaches. Both knowledge systems will be given equal consideration in forming the baseline conditions and predicting potential Project effects, including potential effects to Indigenous rights and interests.</p> <p>The purpose of the IKLRU Program is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sharing of IKLRU information relevant to the Project; • Help identify potential effects of the Project, including those on Indigenous rights and interests; and • Collaborate with Indigenous communities to enhance positive effects and/or to identify measures to avoid/reduce potential effects on Indigenous rights and interests. <p>The IKLRU Program will occur in two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Gathering Phase: Collecting existing Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use that communities are willing to share with the Project Team to help inform the early stages of the Assessments; and • Information Integration Phase: Completing project-specific Indigenous Knowledge and Lands & Resource Use studies or compiling information/data, for integration into the Assessment. <p>Currently, the Project Team is determining which First Nations are interested in participating in the Program. Communities may share as much or as little IKLRU information as they wish, and in whatever form they prefer. The communities can also review the EAR / IS to ensure accuracy of IKLRU information, including if it has been adequately, appropriately, and respectfully represented within the Assessment.</p> <p>You can learn more about the IKLRU Program here.</p>

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
<p>What information are you seeking for the Socio-economic Study and how can First Nations participate?</p>	<p>The goal of the Socio-Economic Study is to understand how, and to what extent, community socio-economic well-being could be affected by the construction and operation/maintenance of the Webequie Supply Road.</p> <p>The study will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting information on existing socio-economic conditions; • Defining the study area(s) within which potential effects are considered; • Assessing socio-economic effects, including identifying criteria and indicators to evaluate and measure the potential effects; • Identifying appropriate mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce potential effects; • Identifying net effects following mitigation; and • Assessing cumulative effects. <p>The Project Team is asking for participation from Indigenous communities to discuss and collect socio-economic information and to verify the information gathered so far. Participation options for First Nations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Socio-Economic Survey (communities can choose from various in-person and/or online survey delivery method options); • Focus Groups; and • Key Informant Interviews. <p>Learn more about the Socio-economic Program.</p>

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
<p>How are cumulative effects and climate change being considered in the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Assessment process?</p>	<p>The WSR Project Team is undertaking a Cumulative Effects Assessment and a Climate Change Assessment.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects Assessment will aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and characterize the effects of the Project that remain after action has been taken to reduce or manage predicted adverse effects (referred to as residual or net effects). This will help focus the Cumulative Effects Assessment on selected Valued Components (VCs) (for example, fish/fish habitat, wildlife, surface water/groundwater, vegetation and wetlands, traditional land and resource use); • Define the area and timeframe within which the study will be done for each VC where net effects have been identified; • Identify other past, current and foreseeable projects and activities with effects likely to overlap with the predicted net effects of the Project; • Work with Indigenous communities to reflect their historical experiences of colonialism and environmental change through building an understanding and overview of events, activities, and policies that have impacted and disrupted Indigenous communities and their way of life in the region; • Predict the likely combined/cumulative effects of the WSR and other projects and activities under consideration, and develop additional mitigation measures, if warranted; and • Evaluate and determine the significance of the predicted cumulative effects. <p>To learn more about how the Project Team is planning to study cumulative effects, review the Fact Sheet and Study Plan Summary.</p> <p>The Climate Change Assessment will aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the changes and trends in climate and the effects of these changes on traditional lands and resources from the perspective of Indigenous communities through consultation with these communities; • Incorporate information prepared by construction and operations / maintenance experts such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The description of related construction activities and camps; vehicle/equipment fuel consumption and emission rates; and duration and extent of vehicle/equipment emissions;

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expected volume and types of vehicular traffic on the new roadway; ○ Extent and frequency of maintenance operations on the new roadway; ○ Electric power usage for buildings sheltering maintenance vehicles/equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect historical and present climate data for the Project site and Northern Ontario from weather and water survey stations; ● Project climatic conditions, using regional-scale models ● Understand baseline air quality conditions from an assessment of existing ambient air monitoring stations located in Northern Ontario and other northern and or remote areas in Canada; and ● Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge to assist in developing mitigation measures and monitoring commitments, where necessary. <p>To learn more about how the Project Team is planning to study climate change, review the Fact Sheet and Study Plan Summary.</p>
<p>How will the potential effects of the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) on water be studied and assessed?</p>	<p>The Project Team is conducting two studies to understand the potential effects of the WSR on water. These studies are the Aquatic Habitat Study and the Groundwater and Surface Water Study.</p> <p>Aquatic Habitat Study</p> <p>This study will gather information regarding the existing aquatic conditions at the 26 waterbody crossings identified along the preliminary preferred corridor for the WSR. The information collected in this study includes information about fish habitats such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Habitat availability: both habitat quantity and quality; ● Habitat quantity: will involve a quantitative assessment of potential changes to the total area of habitat and any known or assumed critical life cycle habitat (e.g., spawning, rearing, etc.) affected by the construction and operation/maintenance of the WSR; ● Habitat quality: will examine changes to the quality of spawning, rearing, or overwintering type habitats for four criteria species (Brook Trout, Northern Pike, Walleye and Lake Sturgeon) as well as consideration of other species ● that may be consumed or have Indigenous cultural importance (i.e., Lake Whitefish, Chain Pickerel, Yellow Perch, Cisco, Burbot, Longnose Sucker, White Sucker and Lake Chub); and

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat sensitivity: will be assessed and rated at each waterbody as rare, high, moderate, low, or no fish habitat based on species sensitivity, species dependence on habitat, rarity of certain types of habitat and ability of certain habitat to recover from change (resiliency). <p>To learn more about how the Project Team is planning to study the aquatic habitat, review the Fact Sheet and Study Plan Summary.</p> <p>Groundwater and Surface Water Study This study will gather information about groundwater and surface water including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater quantity: assessing potential changes to groundwater recharge, groundwater level (including seasonal changes) and groundwater flow/movement; Groundwater quality: assessing the physical, chemical and biological properties of groundwater that may change as a result of the Project; Surface Water Quantity: assessing potential changes to stream flows, water levels, and erosion and sedimentation processes at waterbody crossings, as well as overall drainage patterns within the Project area; and Surface Water Quality: assessing potential changes to biological or chemical properties of surface water in the Project area. <p>To learn more about how the Project Team is planning to study groundwater and surface water, review the Fact Sheet and Study Plan Summary.</p>
<p>How will the safety and well-being of Indigenous communities be considered as part of the Socio-economic Study?</p>	<p>As part of the Socio-economic Study, the Project Team is gathering information related to several preliminary criteria, also known as valued components (VCs). VCs are aspects of the environment that have physical, biological, social, economic, cultural, and health related importance to Indigenous communities, public, federal and provincial authorities and interested stakeholders. VCs may be affected by the Project in both positive and negative ways.</p> <p>One of the preliminary VCs the Project Team is considering is Community Well-Being and Safety. To examine this VC, the Project Team is looking for information about social cohesion and culture, participation in social and/or cultural events, domestic violence, physical/sexual assault and air quality and noise. To better understand Community Well-Being and Safety, the Project Team is conducting research by gathering information from publicly available sources such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics Canada; First Nations Community Profiles;

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community websites; and • Publicly available reports/studies. <p>In addition, the Project Team will collect information from Indigenous communities using several methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys; • Community meetings; • Focus groups; and • Key-informant interviews. <p>All data collection activities will respect and adhere to the community’s cultural protocols and be subject to OCAP (ownership, control, access and possession) principles.</p> <p>Understanding how the Project may affect the social and economic conditions of Indigenous communities begins with understanding the current conditions in the communities potentially effected by the Project. Once the Project Team understands current socio-economic conditions in the communities, they can assess how the Project may affect Indigenous communities and provide measures to mitigate negative effects and enhance positive effects.</p> <p>Learn more about the Socio-economic Program and the Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Land and Resource Use Program.</p>
<p>How does the Socio-economic Study plan to investigate the potential effects of the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) culture and community well-being and safety?</p>	<p>As part of the Socio-economic Study, the Project Team is gathering information related to several preliminary criteria, also known as valued components (VCs). VCs are aspects of the environment that have physical, biological, social, economic, cultural, and health related importance to Indigenous communities, public, federal and provincial authorities and interested stakeholders. VCs may be affected by the Project in both positive and negative ways.</p> <p>The VCs related to culture include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Well-Being and Safety: including social cohesion, participation in social and/or cultural events, perceptions of safety; • Social and Infrastructure services: demand for community services and infrastructure such as education, training, childcare, water, waste management, energy and communications;

Table 3-5 (Cont'd): FAQs from WSR Project Website

Question	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use Compatibility: existing and proposed land uses; • Recreation and Tourism: land/waterway access and resource availability; • Provincial Parks and Protected Areas: areas of natural and scientific interest and conservation reserves; and • Regional and Local Economy: economic and procurement opportunities, labour force and employment, government finances, cost of living, and mining/aggregate activity. <p>To better understand the VCs related to culture, the Project Team is conducting research by gathering information from publicly available sources such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Canada; • First Nations Community Profiles; • Community websites; and • Publicly available reports/studies. <p>In addition, the Project Team will collect information from Indigenous communities using a number of methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys; • Community meetings; • Focus groups; and • Key-informant interviews. <p>All data collection activities will respect and adhere to the community’s cultural protocols and be subject to OCAP (ownership, control, access and possession) principles.</p> <p>Understanding how the WSR may affect the culture of Indigenous communities begins with understanding the current conditions in the communities potentially effected by the Project. Once the Project team understands the baseline conditions in the communities, they can assess how the Project may affect the culture of Indigenous communities and provide measures to mitigate negative effects and enhance positive effects.</p> <p>Learn more about the Socio-economic Program and the Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Land and Resource Use Program.</p>

3.5 Virtual Topic-Specific Information Sessions and Radio Call-In Shows

Throughout Consultation Round 1, the Project Team hosted virtual topic-specific information sessions and radio call-in shows relevant to the WSR Project, as listed in **Table 3-6**. Each began with a live radio show at 2:30 PM EST on Wawatay Radio and was followed by a livestream topic-specific event on Facebook Live and YouTube at 4:30 PM EST. In the two weekdays leading up to each information session/radio call-in show, the Project Team ran a 30 second ad on Wawatay Radio three times each day to advertise the event.

Table 3-6: Virtual Topic-Specific Information Sessions and Radio Call-In Shows During Consultation Round 1

Date	Topic	Discussion Points
October 8, 2021	WSR EA/ToR Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Description of Project background and setting (regional and local) › Summary of Webequie First Nation’s approach to engagement › Description of how the ToR was prepared and how the EA phase will proceed
October 12, 2021	Socio-Economic and Human Health Study Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project update, explaining that the ToR had been approved › Discussion of Socio-Economic and Human Health study plans- including their purpose and details of the activities associated with each
October 14, 2021	WSR EA/ToR Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Description of Project background and setting (regional and local) › Summary of Webequie First Nation’s approach to engagement › Description of how the ToR was prepared and how the EA phase will proceed
October 26, 2021	Acoustic Environment, Visual Environment, Climate Change/Air Quality and Cumulative Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project update, explaining that the ToR had been approved › Discussion of Acoustic Environment, Visual Environment, Climate Change/Air Quality, and Cumulative Effects study plans- including their purpose and details of the activities associated with each
November 9, 2021	Soils, Vegetation, Groundwater, Surface Water, and Aquatic Habitat Study Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project update, explaining that the ToR had been approved › Discussion of Soils, Vegetation, Groundwater, Surface Water, and Aquatic Habitat study plans- including their purpose and details of the activities associated with each

Table 3-6 (Cont'd): Virtual Topic-Specific Information Sessions and Radio Call-In Shows During Consultation Round 1

Date	Topic	Discussion Points
November 23, 2021	Caribou, Wolverine, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Species at Risk, and Breeding Birds Study Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project update, explaining that the ToR had been approved › Discussion of Caribou, Wolverine, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Species at Risk, and Breeding Birds study plans- including their purpose and details of the activities/ field studies associated with each
January 12, 2022	Looking Back and Ahead: WSR Activities in 2021 and 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Current status from provincial regulatory perspective › Updates on activities related to engineering, noise, geotechnical, hydrogeology, socio-economic and biological studies › Completed and upcoming community engagement
January 26, 2022	What We Have Heard: Key Themes of Project Questions and Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Opportunities for providing Project feedback › Indigenous communities and organizations who have provided input › Discussion of key themes of input provided
February 9, 2022	The Provincial EA and Federal IA Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Coordination of the two processes and a general comparison › Purpose of components of technical study plans › Explanation of valued components/indicators and discussion of assessment boundaries › Role and purpose of baseline studies
February 23, 2022	Indigenous Knowledge Part 1 – What is IK?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › General description of what IK entails › Discussion of the importance of IK in the EA/IA process and the blend of IK with western science › Summary of the WSR IK Program
March 9, 2022	Indigenous Knowledge Part 2 – Weaving IK into EAs and IAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Review of “What is IK?” › Specific examples of IK contribution from various disciplines › Presentation of a graphic showing the combination of IK and western science data collection methods
March 23, 2022	Indigenous Knowledge Part 3 – IK from a Community Member’s Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Consisted of 3 videos, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first provided a community Elder’s explanation of Webequie’s Three-Tier Model based on traditional use of the land • The second was a more detailed explanation of the Three-Tier Model including its relationship with government and industry

- The third featured a community elder sharing stories on how Indigenous people moved within their homeland
-

Table 3-6 (Cont'd): Virtual Topic-Specific Information Sessions and Radio Call-In Shows During Consultation Round 1

Date	Topic	Discussion Points
April 6, 2022	Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Definition of socio-economics › Discussion of socio-economic study plan, preliminary valued components, the local and regional study areas, baseline data collection, secondary information collection, Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) analysis, effects assessment, and mitigation of negative effects
April 20, 2022	Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Description of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) › Discussion of HIA objectives, the Webequie First Nation proxy approach, the basis of an HIA, social determinants of health, First Nations health and wellness, and criteria and indicators
May 4, 2022	Air, Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Divided into two parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Noise and vibration, including a discussion of spatial boundaries, temporal boundaries, noise/vibration guidelines, measurement of background noise levels and results, noise monitoring locations, and mitigation methods (2) Air Quality, including a discussion of information collection, valued components, and mitigation methods
May 18, 2022	Wildlife and Species at Risk (SAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Objectives of the wildlife and SAR field studies › Description of field studies and criteria and indicators › Exploration of potential mitigation methods
June 1, 2022	Groundwater and Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Objectives of the groundwater and surface water field studies › Discussion of study areas, field surveys, and potential mitigation methods
June 15, 2022	Fish and Fish Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Objectives of the fish and fish habitat field studies › Description of the various field surveys to be conducted and criteria and indicators › Explanation of potential mitigation methods
June 29, 2022	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Key definitions associated with cultural heritage assessments › Description of the purpose of the assessment, regulatory requirements, and steps involved in identifying built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes › Overview of preliminary impact assessment methodology

3.6 On-Reserve Community Meetings

Four in-person on-reserve community meetings were held during Consultation Round 1, three with Webequie First Nation and one with Weenusk First Nation (refer to **Table 3-7**). The purpose of each community meeting was to share information on the WSR EA/IA process, study plans for valued components, assessment approach, IKLRU, consideration of alternatives and consultation approach and next steps. The presentation materials were translated to Ojibway and Cree in real-time by local translators, and all COVID-19 protocols were adhered to. Each meeting ended with a Q&A period and an overview of other upcoming engagement and consultation opportunities.

Table 3-7: Consultation Round 1 On-Reserve Community Meetings

#	Community	Date/Time	Location	Topics Covered
1	Webequie First Nation	October 13, 2021 1:00 PM	Webequie First Nation Band Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > EA/IA process Study Plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Socio-Economic/ > Human Health
2	Webequie First Nation	October 27, 2021 12:00 PM	Webequie First Nation Band Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > EA/IA Process Study Plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Acoustic/Visual Environment > Climate Change/Air Quality > Cumulative Effects
3	Webequie First Nation	November 10, 2021 2:00 PM	Webequie First Nation Band Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > EA/IA Process Study Plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Geology, Terrain & Soils > Vegetation, > Groundwater & Surface Water > Aquatic Habitat
4	Weenusk First Nation	July 19, 2022 7:00 PM	Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Topics in Consultation Round 1 – EA/IA updates, study plans for valued components, assessment approach, IKLRU, consideration of alternatives and consultation approach/ next steps

3.7 Off-Reserve Community Meetings

A meeting was held for Webequie First Nation off-reserve members at the Italian Cultural Centre in Thunder Bay on May 31, 2022, to provide information on topics in Consultation Round 1, including: EA/IA updates, study plans for valued components, assessment approach, IKLRU, consideration of alternatives and consultation approach and next steps.

3.8 Public Information Centre (PIC) #1

The WSR Project Team hosted PIC #1 at the Valhalla Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay on August 25, 2022. This was an Open House for all interested community members, the public and stakeholders. It consisted of two sessions: one between 2:00 – 5:00 PM and the second from 6:00 – 9:00 PM, followed by an informal drop-in centre with display information about the Project. Topics covered during PIC #1 included Project updates since the ToR approval, the EA/IA process, studies being conducted for valued components, ongoing and future engagement and consultation opportunities, IKLRU, and the evaluation of alternatives. A total of 24 individuals attended the sessions. The main concern was heard was the need for the incorporation of Indigenous ways of communication in the process and the critical need for infrastructure in the communities.

Upon arriving at the PIC, attendees were greeted by the Project Team and encouraged to sign-in at the registration table. Communication materials provided at the open house included: 50 copies of the EA and Preliminary Engineering Fact Sheet in Ojibway and English; 50 copies of the ToR Fact Sheet in Ojibway and English; 50 copies of the Community Newsletter in English; 50 copies of Frequently Asked Questions in English; and 50 Community Meeting Feedback Forms. Project Team members encouraged attendees to complete the Feedback Forms and provide any comments and questions at the conclusion of the event to the Project Team.

3.9 Communication Materials

To compliment activities, meetings, and events that occurred during Consultation Round 1, communication materials were developed. These included presentation slide decks, study plan and general summary fact sheets for each valued component, handouts, display boards, video tutorials, and other materials. All materials were written/recorded in plain language free of technical jargon and have been produced to ensure that information is clear and easy to understand. Many are available on the Project Website to ensure community members and all interested parties can download them following engagement and consultation activities. More specifically, the following materials can be accessed on the Project website:

- › **Fact Sheets** – a brief overview of the assessment purpose, study area, timeline, existing conditions, and data requirements for each valued component;
- › **Study Plan Summaries** – a more in-depth summary of the objectives, assessment areas/ considerations, study methods, potential mitigations, study area boundaries, and criteria and indicators for each valued component;
- › **Study-specific web-pages** – summarize ongoing field studies and the socio-economic and IKLRU programs, including data collection topics, methods, rationale, and ways to get involved;
- › **Round #1 Virtual Community Information Session presentation slide deck** – provides an overview of the EA/IA process, Project description, engagement and consultation to date, study plans, assessment approach, baseline studies for select valued components, IKLRU program, evaluation of alternatives, and next steps;
- › **Discipline-Specific Tutorial Videos** – provide tutorials on various disciplines, or VECs, that are being studied as part of the EA/IA process; and,
- › **Virtual Community Information Session Videos** – videos of recorded virtual information sessions, allowing community members to watch their community-specific session on-demand and provide comments or feedback.

4 Engagement and Consultation Results

4.1 Social Media and Associated Analytics – Definitions

The social media analytics described in Table 4-1 have been used to quantify engagement on the WSR Project via social media.

Table 4-1: Social Media Analytics Definitions Used for the WSR Project

Platform/Metric	Definition
Facebook	
<i>Page likes</i>	The number of people who liked your page.
<i>Page followers</i>	The number of people who have clicked on the 'follow' button on your page.
<i>Page views</i>	The number of people who have visited your page.
<i>Engagement</i>	Engagement is any action someone takes on your Facebook page or one of your posts. This includes the likes, reactions, number of likes and shares. It can also include saves, viewing a video or clicking on a link.
<i>Reach</i>	The number of people who saw your page posts on their news feed at least once.
<i>Profile visits</i>	This is the number of times a page's profile has been viewed by people, including people who are logged into Facebook and those who aren't.
<i>Impressions</i>	Impressions are the number of times any content from your page or about your page entered a person's screen. It is the number of times your post was seen. It can even be more than once.
<i>Organic like</i>	The likes you receive without the use of the promotions. You can use hashtags and trending keywords to help the post reach more people.
<i>Paid like</i>	If someone sees a promoted or sponsored post and likes it, it's counted as a paid like.
<i>Page clicks</i>	The number of people who clicked on your page after seeing your post, video or story.
<i>Engagement by post type</i>	This lets you know the engagement your page has by its type. We can get to know which kind of content will receive the most engagement (e.g., if it's an image or multiple images, or a video).

Table 4-1 (Cont'd): Social Media Analytics Definitions Used for the WSR Project

Platform/Metric	Definition
<i>Paid reach</i>	The number of people who saw your post due to an ad you paid for.
<i>Video minutes viewed</i>	The total number of minutes your video was watched for.
LinkedIn	
<i>Likes</i>	The total number of likes/reactions on your post.
<i>Comments</i>	The total number of comments on your post.
<i>Engagement</i>	The total number of reactions, comments, clicks and shares on your LinkedIn posts published during the selected period.
<i>Impressions</i>	Impressions refers to the number of times your post is displayed on someone's news feed – regardless of whether they click on it or not.
<i>Reach</i>	The number of people who see your content.
<i>Page views</i>	The total number of times your company page was viewed during your specified date range.
<i>Unique views</i>	The total number of unique users that have viewed your company page. This number excludes multiple visits from a single user.
<i>Average engagement rate per post</i>	The average engagement rate for posts published during the selected date range. For each post, the engagement rate is calculated by taking the reactions, comments, clicks and shares received, divided by the number of followers at the time of the post.
<i>Total reactions</i>	The total number of reactions received on posts published during the selected period. This includes all types of responses such as like, celebrate, love, insightful and curious.
YouTube	
<i>Channel</i>	A YouTube page is referred to as a "channel".
<i>New subscribers</i>	YouTube's equivalent of a new follower.

<i>Watch time (HOURS)</i>	Watch time is the total amount of minutes viewers have spent watching your videos. The higher the watch time, the higher the chances of YouTube elevating your video in the recommended videos.
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Table 4-1 (Cont'd): Social Media Analytics Definitions Used for the WSR Project

Platform/Metric	Definition
<i>Subscribers growth</i>	This will show you which videos, locations, and periods gain and lose subscribers.
<i>Audience retention</i>	Audience retention shows you the percentage of viewers who watch and leave your video at every single moment of the video.
<i>Engagement</i>	Comments, shares, likes, and dislikes.
<i>Impressions click-through rate</i>	Impressions click-through rate measures your video's ability to prompt people to watch your video after seeing it on their homepage, recommendation section, or trending section.
<i>View</i>	YouTube counts a "view" when someone watches 30 seconds of your video.
Twitter (Tweets)	
<i>Impression</i>	Anytime a Twitter user sees your Tweet. Think of an impression as a Tweet that shows up on someone's monitor or mobile screen.
<i>Engagement</i>	The number of Likes/Favourites, ReTweets, Replies and Mentions received by a Twitter account.
<i>Likes</i>	Used to show appreciation for a Tweet.
<i>Retweets</i>	A re-posting of a Tweet.
Twitter (Live Stream)	
<i>Views</i>	Occurs when a user plays the live stream or joins a broadcast full screen or three seconds after a video starts to auto-play. Replays are considered as views as well.
Instagram (Posts)	
<i>Likes</i>	The total number of likes (favourable reactions) on your post
<i>Comments</i>	The number of comments on your post.
<i>Saved</i>	The number of unique accounts that saved your post.

Engagement Anytime a user likes or comments on one of your post.

Impressions The total number of times your post has been seen.

Table 4-1 (Cont'd): Social Media Analytics Definitions Used for the WSR Project

Platform/Metric	Definition
<i>Reach</i>	The number of times your website was clicked because of a post.
Instagram (Stories)	
<i>Views</i>	An Instagram story is a picture, video or series of the two that is shared on Instagram for only 24 hours. Views are the number of times stories were viewed, even if they were just swiped right past.

4.2 Engagement and Consultation Activities Undertaken and Results

4.2.1 Wapekeka First Nation

4.2.1.1 Key Consultation Activities Undertaken to Date

Table 4-2 below describes key consultation activities that occurred during Consultation Round 1 with Wapekeka First Nation.

Table 4-2: Key Consultation Activities Undertaken During Round 1 - Wapekeka First Nation

Date	Description of Key Consultation/Engagement Activities
October – November 2021	NoC distributed via email and mail
October 2021 – September 2022	Virtual live-stream sessions and Wawatay radio call-in shows, including circulation of letters and posters to advertise each session via email, mail, and fax
December 2021	IKLRU and Socio-Economic Program invitation letters circulated via email, mail, and fax
April 13, 2022	Follow up on IKLRU invitation letter via phone call from Project Team
April 26, 2022	Follow up on Socio-Economic Program invitation letter via email
July 12, 2022	Letter describing community engagement options and providing information on virtual information sessions (including past sessions) circulated via email and fax
July 25, 2022	Letter and poster advertising the upcoming virtual community information session circulated via email, mail, and fax
July 26, 2022	Letter describing community engagement options and providing information on the Socio-Economic primary data collection program circulated via email and fax
August 8, 2022	Round #1 virtual community information session including an introduction, video presentation summarizing EA/IA activities to date, and a Q&A period
August 12, 2022	Letter describing community engagement options and providing information on the conclusion of Consultation Round 1/ Round 2 topics circulated via email and fax
August 18 & 23, 2022	Notice of PIC #1 circulated via email blast
August 25, 2022	PIC #1 at Valhalla Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay
Monthly (November 2021 – September 2022)	Newsletters 5 - 13 circulated via email, mail, and fax

4.2.1.1.1 Virtual Community Information Session

A Live Virtual Community Information Session with Wapekeka First Nation was held on Monday August 8, 2022, at 12:00pm EST. An invitation to participate was sent on July 25, 2022. The meeting was 39 minutes long and 0 community members attended. The session was advertised through word of mouth and through Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. As of October 18, 2022, the recording of the session was viewed on YouTube 0 times. Detailed information regarding the social media outreach analytics for this session are presented below.

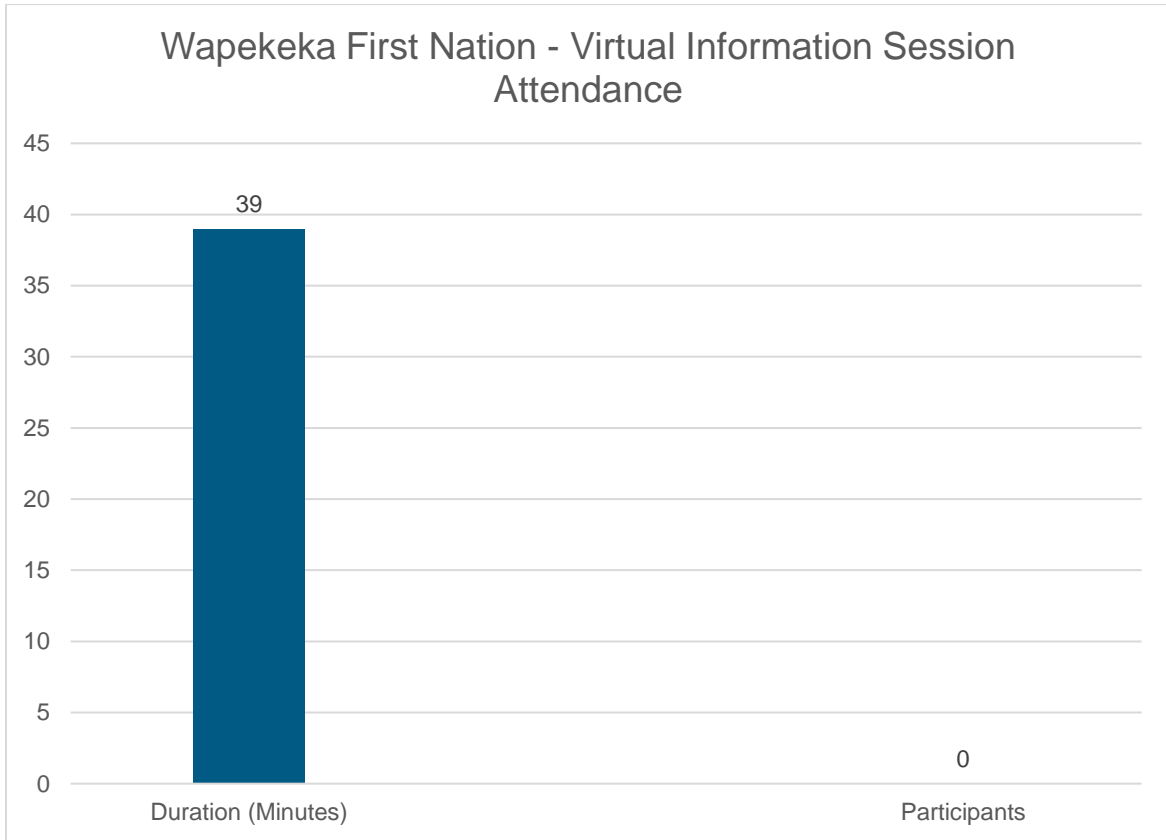


Figure 4-1: Wapekeka First Nation Virtual Information Session Attendance

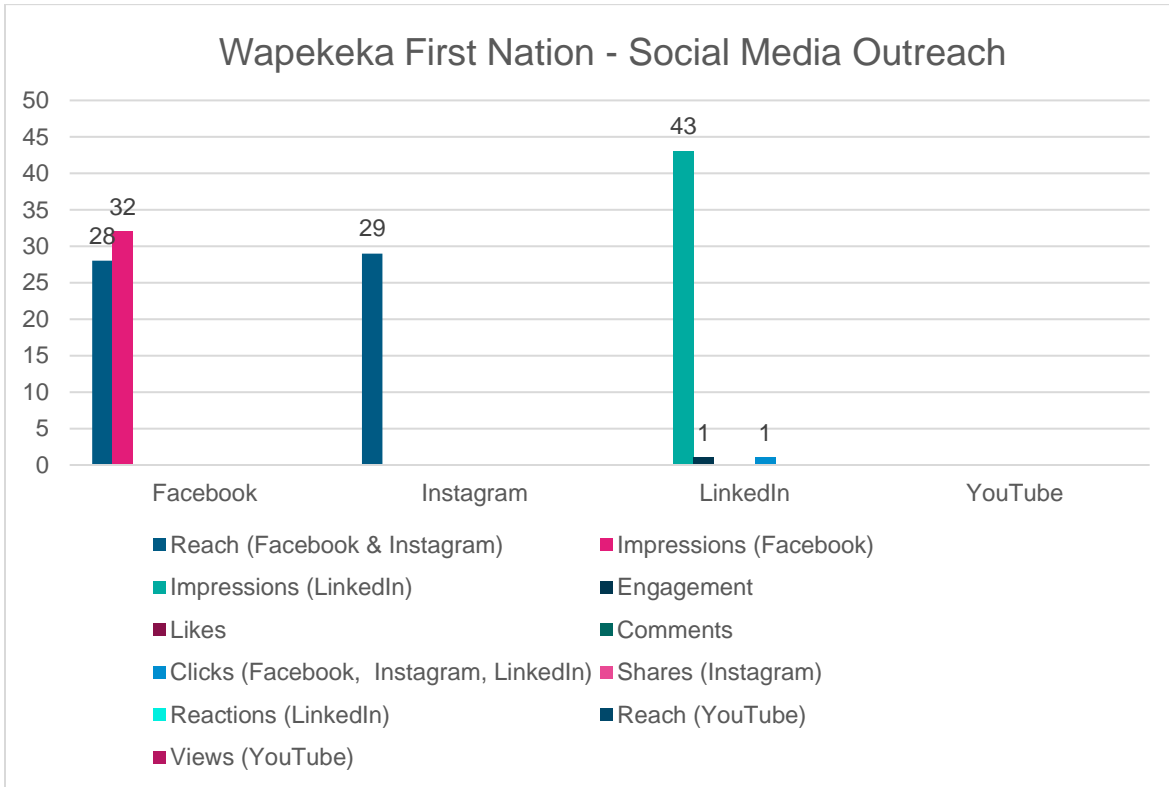


Figure 4-2: Wapekeka First Nation Social Media Outreach

4.2.1.2 Summary of Feedback Received and Response

No feedback was received from Wapekeka First Nation during the EA phase to date. Any feedback received and/or responses provided during Consultation Round 2 will be included in the next Consultation Progress Report.

5 Integration of Feedback into the EA/IA Process

As part of Consultation Round 1, the engagement and consultation activities listed in **Section 3** (including Chief and Council Meetings, virtual and in-person open houses, virtual topic-specific information sessions and radio call-in shows, on-reserve and off-reserve community meetings, and posting of content on the Project website) sought to generate comments and feedback from the 22 potentially affected Indigenous communities regarding various aspects of the WSR Project and EA/IA study process. The feedback that has been received to date will be integrated into the ongoing EA/IA process and studies in various ways.

Study area boundaries and indicators (which represent a resource, feature, or issue that, if changed, may represent an effect on the environment) for each valued component will be refined and validated based on input from Indigenous communities generated during Consultation and Engagement as well as through the IKLRU program. Furthermore, this feedback will inform the Project Team's understanding of potential effects on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests and will be woven into the assessments for valued components (such as socio-economic, vegetation, human health, aquatic environment, wildlife, and others), as applicable.

Consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities could also result in the alteration of technically and economically feasible alternative methods of carrying out the Project, such as the alignment options for the road or aggregate source areas identified during the ToR phase, before the proposed or final Project development area/footprint (i.e., the Undertaking) is confirmed and presented in the EAR/IS. Any comments provided by Indigenous communities that influence the evaluation of alternatives and selection of the preferred alternative or commitments to mitigation and monitoring/reporting will be addressed in relevant sections of the EAR/IS. Other comments relating to the Project will be addressed in the Consultation Section of the EAR/IS and in a summary table within the final Record of Consultation, summarizing the comments and the responses provided. Where resolution of issues has not been possible by the time of publication of the Draft EAR/IS, this will be noted, along with a record of all attempts to resolve the issue.

In order to receive input and inform in the decision-making process for the planning and development of the Project, Indigenous communities will have the opportunity to review the Draft and Final EAR/IS. Copies of the Draft EAR/IS and Final EAR/IS for Indigenous communities' review and comment will be made available, including at the Administration office of each Indigenous community, at Tribal Council and Nishnawbe Aski Nation offices, at participating municipal offices and libraries, and through the Project website.

6 Conclusions/ Next Steps

As demonstrated within this Consultation Progress Report, during the EA/IA phase of the Project, the WSR Project Team is committed to ongoing efforts to engage and consult with potentially affected communities through various activities and initiatives. The WSR Project Team will respond to any questions or concerns raised by MECP or an Indigenous community in response to the Consultation Progress Report, including making any revisions to the progress report as considered applicable. This report will also be appended to the record of consultation submitted with the EAR/IS.

Next steps for the WSR Project consultation and engagement program will involve proceeding with various consultation and engagement activities as part of Consultation Round 2, which is tentatively scheduled to start in Winter 2022/2023 and continue through Summer 2023. Key milestones and topics to be included as part of the consultation program for this round include identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure (aggregate/ rock source areas, construction camps, access roads), including rationale for selection, and preliminary engineering design elements (bridges/culverts). Following Consultation Round 2, a second Consultation Progress Report will be produced in order to meet MECP's requirements as defined in the NoA of the ToR (Amendment 3 "Consultation Reporting at Key EA Milestones"). Finally, Consultation Round 3 will occur in Winter 2023/2024 and will focus on the outcomes of the preliminary effects assessment and the proposed impact management, mitigation, and follow-up monitoring program. This round will occur in tandem with the development and notice of the Draft and Final EAR/IS, which will include the final record of consultation (including the outcomes of consultation and engagement activities from all three rounds) and be circulated to all 22 potentially affected Indigenous communities for review and comment.

Appendix A

Praxis Record of Consultation Report





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