



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

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

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

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

April 9, 2020

**Sent by email**

Chief Dorothy Towedo  
Aroland First Nation  
P.O. Box 10  
Aroland First Nation ON P0T 1B0  
chiefdorothytowedo@gmail.com

Dear Chief Dorothy Towedo:

**Subject: Federal Impact Assessment Process for the Marten Falls  
Community Access Road Project**

Thank you for your correspondence dated December 16, 2019, regarding the Minister of Environment and Climate Change's authority to refer the federal impact assessment for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project (the Project) to a review panel. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada understands that all communities are currently prioritizing resources on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Minister has the discretionary authority to refer the impact assessment of a project to a review panel within 45 days after the commencement of the assessment. The Minister made a decision not to refer the Project to a review panel and as such, the Project will continue as an Agency-led impact assessment.

In reaching the decision, the Minister considered the factors in subsection 36(2) of the *Impact Assessment Act* and is satisfied that an Agency-led assessment process would be able to address potential adverse effects, consider potential impacts on the exercise of rights of Indigenous people, enable participation by Indigenous groups and the public, and enable coordination of the assessment process with the Province of Ontario.

The Agency notes that Marten Falls First Nation must fulfil the requirements of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (Guidelines) during the impact assessment process. As per Section 6.2 of the Guidelines, Marten Falls First

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Nation is required to include in its analysis all input received by Indigenous groups. This analysis is to include the identification of potential effects and impacts, including impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights and the identification of specific valued components where appropriate. The Agency will continue to consult with Aroland First Nation to assess the project's impacts on the exercise of your community's Aboriginal and Treaty rights throughout the impact assessment process.

The Agency recognizes that Aroland First Nation may have other priorities at this time, and would welcome a meeting to discuss your letter in detail after the COVID-19 pandemic has settled.

If you have any further questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at 416-476 5476 or at IAAC.MartenFalls.AEIC@canada.ca. I welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with your community.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Caitlin Cafaro  
Crown Consultation Coordinator

c.c.: Earnie Gagnon, Land and Resources Coordinator, Aroland First Nation  
Sheldon Atlookan, Councillor, Aroland First Nation  
Anne Marie Magiskan, Executive Assistant, Aroland First Nation  
John Glover, Environmental Management Consultant, Shared Value Solutions  
Andrew Peach, Junior Land Use Planner, Shared Value Solutions  
Donald Ritcherson, Managing Partner, Shared Value Solutions  
Trieneke Gastmeier, Heritage and Social Researcher, Shared Value Solutions  
Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation  
Qasim Saddique, Marten Falls Community Access Road Project Director  
Agni Papageorgiou, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Sasha McLeod, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks