



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

July 31, 2020

Sent by email

Sarah Beamish
Beamish Law
901 King Street West
Suite 400, East Tower
Toronto, ON M5V 3H5
<Email address removed>

Dear Sarah Beamish:

Subject: Fort Albany First Nation's Update and Funding Requirements for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project

Thank you for your letter dated July 3, 2020, responding on behalf of Fort Albany First Nation to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's June 19, 2020, letter. The Agency acknowledges that COVID-19 related demands and the recent retirement of staff has limited Fort Albany First Nation's ability to respond to Agency correspondences and requests for information.

Fort Albany Representation

It was a pleasure to work with Christopher Metatawabin and we wish him well in his future endeavours. The Agency notes that Steve DeRoy and Alistair MacDonald of the Firelight Group have been working as technical advisors for Fort Albany First Nation and that Jacqueline Sutherland has been copied on this correspondence as CEO for Fort Albany First Nation. Kindly confirm that Steve DeRoy, Alistair MacDonald and Jacqueline Sutherland should be copied on future correspondence.

Funding for Participating in the Impact Assessment

Fort Albany First Nation requested funding to cover the costs of technical and legal advisors and community engagement activities. Fort Albany First Nation requests this funding prior to proposing specific information to develop a Community-Specific Annex¹ to the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and providing information on the extent of Fort Albany First Nation's exercise of

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¹ The Agency understands that your community has an interest in discussing consultation activities beyond those identified in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP). Please note that the intent of the IEPP Annex is to identify community-specific consultation methods, activities, and objectives that are not already reflected in IEPP that was posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website. The IEPP can be accessed at the following link: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p80184/133936E.pdf>.



rights in relation to the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project (the Project). The Agency notes the cost estimate provided in your letter and Fort Albany First Nation's position that the Agency should support all travel costs for technical advisors to participate in future technical sessions hosted by the Agency.

The Agency provides opportunities for limited funding through the participant-funding program. The levels of funding offered are determined in a manner that takes into account funding availability to assist all potentially interested participants. More information, including the amount of funding available to Fort Albany First Nation, will be provided at a later date. In addition, the Agency will provide Fort Albany First Nation with advance notice of when the funding opportunity becomes available for the assessment of the Project. For more information on participant funding, please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>.

Guiding Principles for the Impact Assessment Process

The Agency acknowledges the nine high-level principles in the First Nations Major Project Coalition's *Major Project Assessment Standard*. The Agency is committed to substantive, meaningful, and respectful consultation conduct throughout the impact assessment process for the Project.

Upon request, the Agency remains available to discuss any comments or concerns Fort Albany First Nation may have regarding the Crown's consultation conduct for the Project as outlined in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and will be pleased to set up a virtual meeting at your convenience. The Agency has also set out expectations for the proponent in relation to engagement in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Project.

If you have any further questions regarding the Project, please feel free to contact me through email at IAAC.MartenFalls.AEIC@canada.ca or at 416-476-5476.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Caitlin Cafaro
Crown Consultation Coordinator

c.c.: Chief Leo Metatawabin, Fort Albany First Nation
Jacqueline Sutherland, Fort Albany First Nation
Steve DeRoy, The Firelight Group
Alistair MacDonald, The Firelight Group
Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
Lawrence Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation
Qasim Saddique, Marten Falls Community Access Road Project
Clayton Coppaway, Marten Falls First Nation Access Road Project