



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

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

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

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

October 7, 2020

Sent by email

Chief David Nakogee
Attawapiskat First Nation
P.O. Box 248
Attawapiskat ON P0L 1A0
<Email address removed>

Dear Chief David Nakogee:

**Subject: Time Limits for the Webequie Supply Road and Marten Falls
Community Access Road Impact Assessments**

Thank you for your letter dated September 14, 2020, requesting extensions to the impact assessment processes of the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project and the Webequie Supply Road Project. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) acknowledges the message that your COVID-19 precautions limits Attawapiskat First Nation's ability to discuss the projects with community members.

Time Limit Management under the Impact Assessment Act

The *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) has provisions that allow proponents to extend the time limit to provide the Agency with the information or studies needed to conduct the impact assessment. According to IAA, Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation have three years from the date of the Notice of Commencement (February 24, 2020) to provide the Agency with the information or studies that are set out in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The three-year time limit ends for these projects on February 24, 2023. If there were to be an extension of the time limits for the road project assessments, the Agency would notify all Indigenous groups listed in the respective Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plans.

COVID-19 Constraints to Participation

Please consider correspondence from us at this time to be informational as we respect the current obstacles that Attawapiskat First Nation faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to information-sharing and periodic check-ins with your community, below are the Agency's current commitments respecting COVID-19 considerations at this time:

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- The Agency is currently following [guidelines](#)¹ that have been issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada and local health authorities;
- The Agency has halted in-person and in-community meetings; when a meeting is unavoidable during the current circumstance, we will conduct those activities through digital communications including: teleconference calls and WebEx as appropriate and to the preference of Indigenous groups to discuss projects;
- The Agency remains flexible and able to adapt our conduct as necessary to prioritize the health and safety of communities participating in federal impact assessments;
- The Agency continues to be in touch with proponents to understand how projects are affected by COVID-19; and
- The Agency will provide updates to Indigenous groups about the status of projects at regular intervals.

Follow-up on March 31, 2020 Request for a Meeting

In the Attawapiskat First Nation letter to Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, dated March 31, 2020, your community requested a meeting with Agency representatives for the impact assessments of the road projects and the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire area, as well as representatives from the province. The Agency is working with the province on coordination and the Agency will be in touch with Attawapiskat First Nation to arrange a meeting to discuss next steps.

Confirmation of Attawapiskat First Nation Representatives

The Agency is aware that Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP (OKT Law) and Shared Value Solutions have been copied on incoming correspondence from Attawapiskat First Nation. To assist the Agency, could you please confirm whether OKT Law and Shared Value Solutions are authorized to coordinate activities and information sharing about the projects on behalf of Attawapiskat First Nation? A reply email indicating the roles of OKT Law and Shared Value Solutions is sufficient for the Agency.

Kindly let us know if there are any additional contacts that are authorized to discuss the projects on behalf of Attawapiskat First Nation.

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¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents.html>

For further questions regarding the federal impact assessment processes for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project and the Webequie Supply Road Project, please do not hesitate to contact me, at 647-391-8426 or by email at IAAC.MartenFalls.AEIC@canada.ca or IAAC.Webequie.AEIC@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Laura DeCoste
Crown Consultation Coordinator

c.c.: Louis Edwards, Attawapiskat First Nation
Nancy Tookate, Attawapiskat First Nation
Wayne Turner, Attawapiskat First Nation
Charles Hookimaw, Attawapiskat First Nation
Sasha McLeod, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Shannon Gauthier, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ariane Heisey, Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
Lawrence Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation
Michael Fox, Marten Falls First Nation