



FINAL

Birds Field Logistics Work Plan

November 2021





Birds Field Logistics Work Plan

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Birds Field Logistics Work Plan

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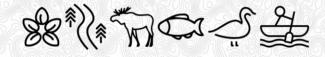
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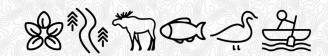




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Acronyms

VC..... Valued Component

Agency, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
ARU Autonomous Recording Unit
CAR Community Access Road
EA Environmental Assessment
HaSEP Health and Safety and Environmental Protection Plan
IA Impact Assessment
IAA Impact Assessment Act
IAAC Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
JSEA Job Safety and Environmental Analysis
MECP Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
MFFN Marten Falls First Nation
SAR Species at Risk
TISG Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
ToR Terms of Reference





Birds Field Logistics Work Plan

1. Introduction

The Proponent of the Community Access Road (CAR or the Project) is Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN), a remote First Nation community in northern Ontario located at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki rivers, approximately 430 kilometres from Thunder Bay, Ontario. The MFFN community is proposing an all-season CAR that will connect the MFFN community to Ontario's provincial highway network (Highway 643) to the south via the existing Painter Lake Road. MFFN, as the Proponent of the Project, has formed a MFFN CAR Project Team that includes MFFN CAR Community Member Advisors and MFFN CAR Project Consultants who act with input, guidance, and direction from the MFFN Chief and Council.

This document outlines the work plan to implement the field studies for the valued component (VC) forest birds, raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl, bog/fen and other wetland birds, and species at risk (SAR) birds, recognizing that the results of these studies will be used to support a coordinated Impact Assessment (IA) required for Project review by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) under the federal Impact Assessment Act (IAA), and an Environmental Assessment (EA) required for Project review by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

The Birds Work Plan describes the proposed methods and schedule to complete the field program and considers both the Agency's Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project (TISG) (IAAC 2020) and the comments received on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) (AECOM 2020).



Birds Field Logistics Work Plan

2. Overview and Approach

The approach and associated study areas for the birds field program are defined in the Birds Study Plan (MFFN CAR 2021). These considerations were developed based on guidance from and discussions with both federal and provincial regulators. A brief description of the proposed methodology and staffing plan to complete the birds field program are described below, with the understanding that the technical content is limited to supplementary information (not previously included in the Birds Study Plan).

2.1 Methodology

The proposed methodology for the birds field program is described in **Table 2-1**, and the corresponding survey locations are shown in **Figure 2-1**, **Figure 2-2** and **Figure 2-3**. The proposed methodology described below is in line with what was initially detailed in the Birds Study Plan. No deviations are anticipated at this time.

Table 2-1: Methodology for Bird Field Study

Breeding Bird Point Counts				
Permits To Conduct Field Studies	■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022.			
Field Study Methods	 Pre-selected stations in Figure 2-1 will be used wherever possible, however many of these were selected during desktop review, and changes may be necessary pending conditions encountered in the field. Breeding bird point counts and audio recordings on a handheld device will completed at each station. 			
Lab Analysis Methods	■ No lab analysis is required for breeding bird point counts.			
	Autonomous Recording Unit (ARU)			
Permits To Conduct Field Studies	■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022.			
Field Study Methods	 Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) will be set up at a subset of Breeding Bird Point Count Stations shown in Figure 2-1 as described in the Birds Study Plan to record during the spring migration, breeding season, fall migration, and winter. However additional ARU locations may be added to capture targeted migration habitat that does not overlap with current station locations, pending conditions encountered in the field. Targeted ARUs for eastern whip-poor-will and common night hawk will be set up at existing stations shown in Figure 2-2 as described in the Birds Study 			





Birds Field Logistics Work Plan

	Autonomono Decembro Huit (ADII)		
	Autonomous Recording Unit (ARU)		
Plan. An additional six stations have been added via desktop, but habitat suitability will be confirmed in the field. New stations may be moved, and additional stations may be added, pending conditions encountered in the Targeted ARUs for yellow rail, and short-eared owl will be at existing ARU stations wherever possible, pending confirmation of habitat in the field. Additional stations may be added, pending conditions encountered in the No lab analysis is required for ARUs.			
Marsh Bird Call Playback Surveys			
Permits To Conduct Field Studies	■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022.		
Field Study Methods	■ These surveys will be conducted at existing stations shown in Figure 2-2 , as well as at an additional five stations added via desktop, as described in the Birds Study Plan, but habitat suitability will be confirmed in the field. New stations may be moved, and additional stations may be added, pending conditions encountered in the field.		
Lab Analysis Methods	■ No lab analysis is required for marsh bird call playback surveys.		
	Species Specific Surveys		
Permits To Conduct Field Studies	■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022.		
Field Study Methods	■ Surveys for chimney swift, bank swallow, barn swallow, and peregrine falcon will be conducted at additional areas within the Local Study Area than those mentioned above, in conjunction with vegetation and bat habitat identification surveys, as discussed in the Birds Study Plan.		
Lab Analysis Methods	■ No lab analysis is required for species specific surveys.		
Aerial Surveys			
Permits To Conduct Field Studies ■ N/A			
Field Study Methods	■ Aerial surveys will follow spacing, and methods described within the Birds Study Plan and shown in Figure 2-3 , however the precise layout of transects will be adapted as needed, pending confirmation of habitat, bird behaviour, and weather conditions encountered in the field.		
	and weather conditions officed the field		





Figure 2-1: Bird Point Count Survey and ARUS Locations

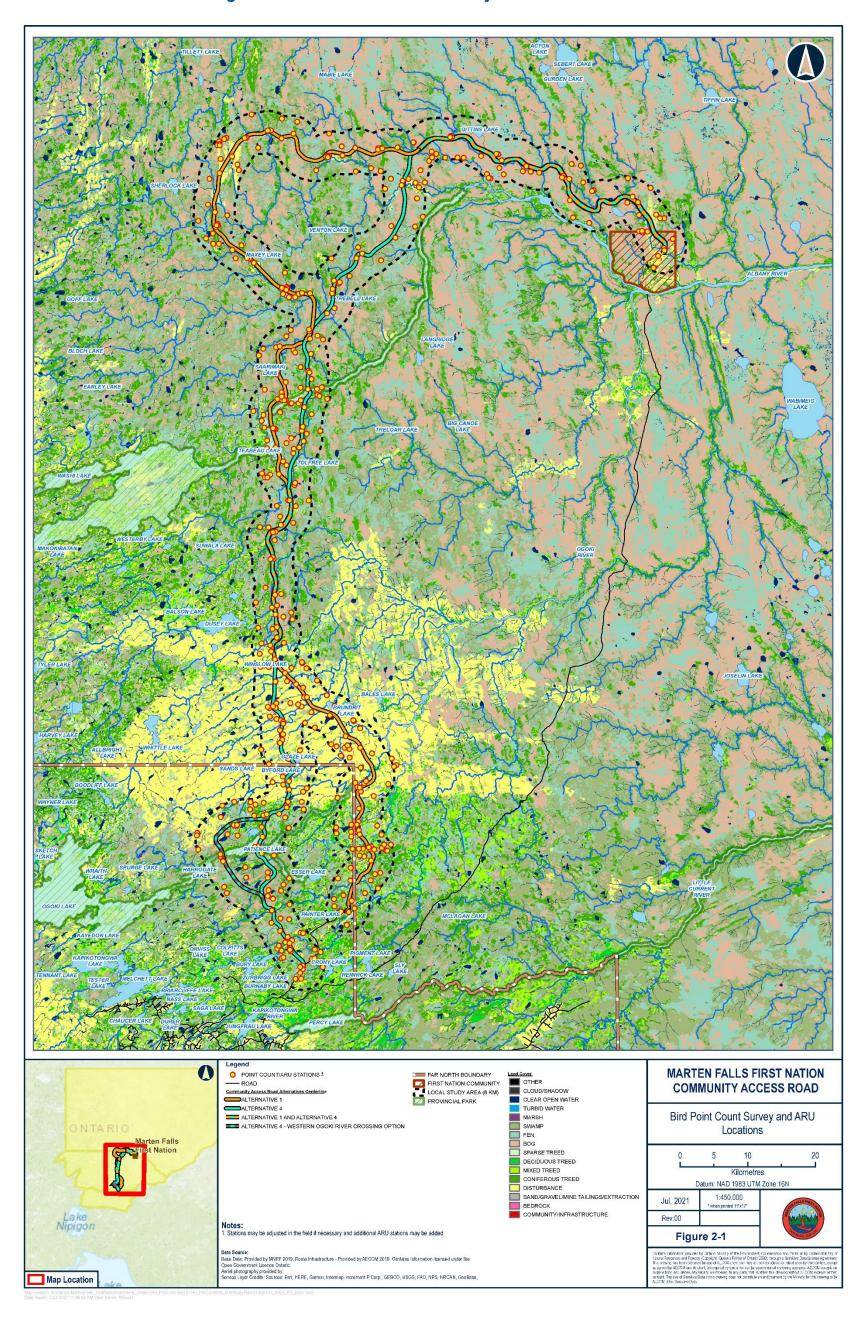




Figure 2-2: Marsh Bird Playback and Eastern Whip-poor-will Survey Locations

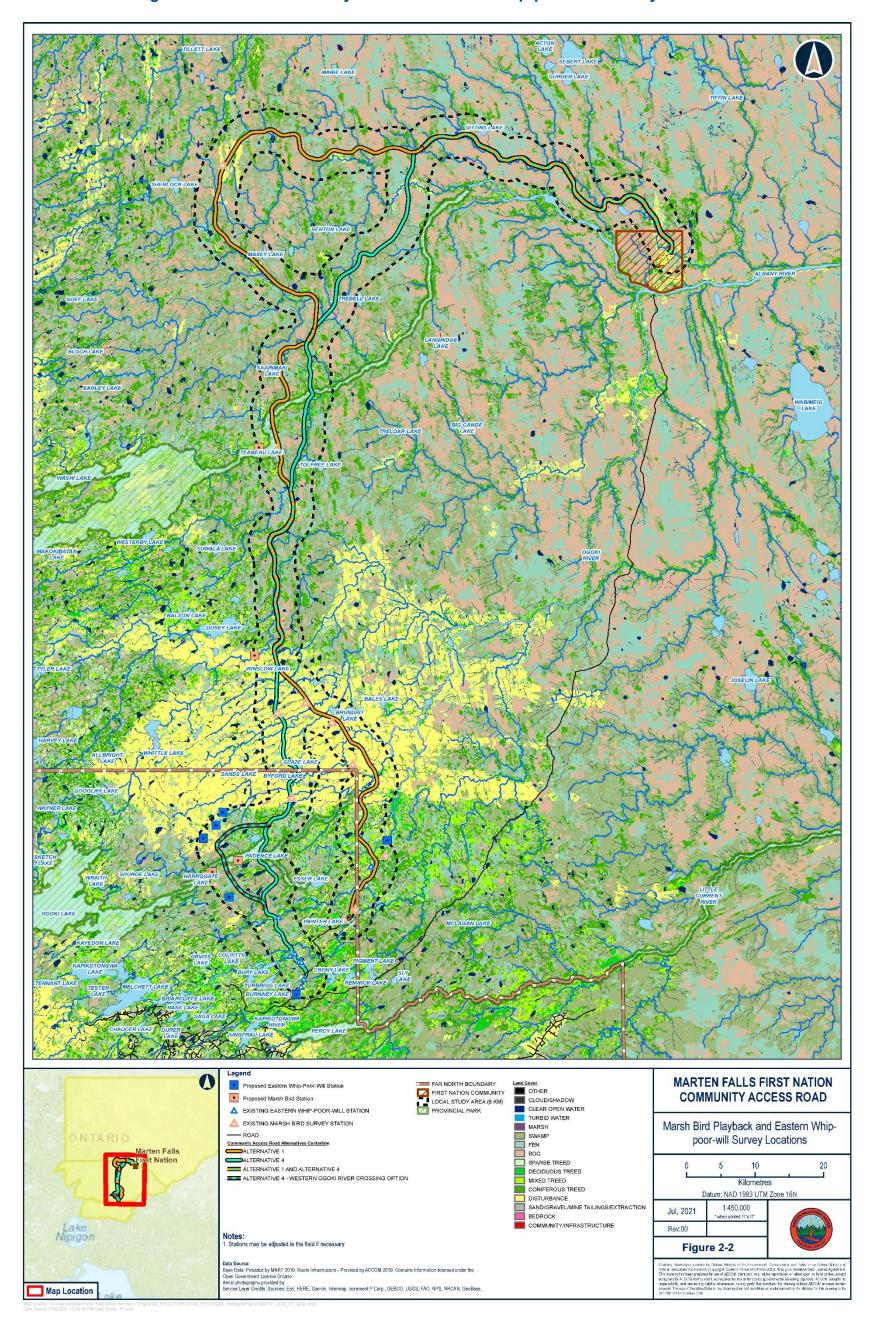
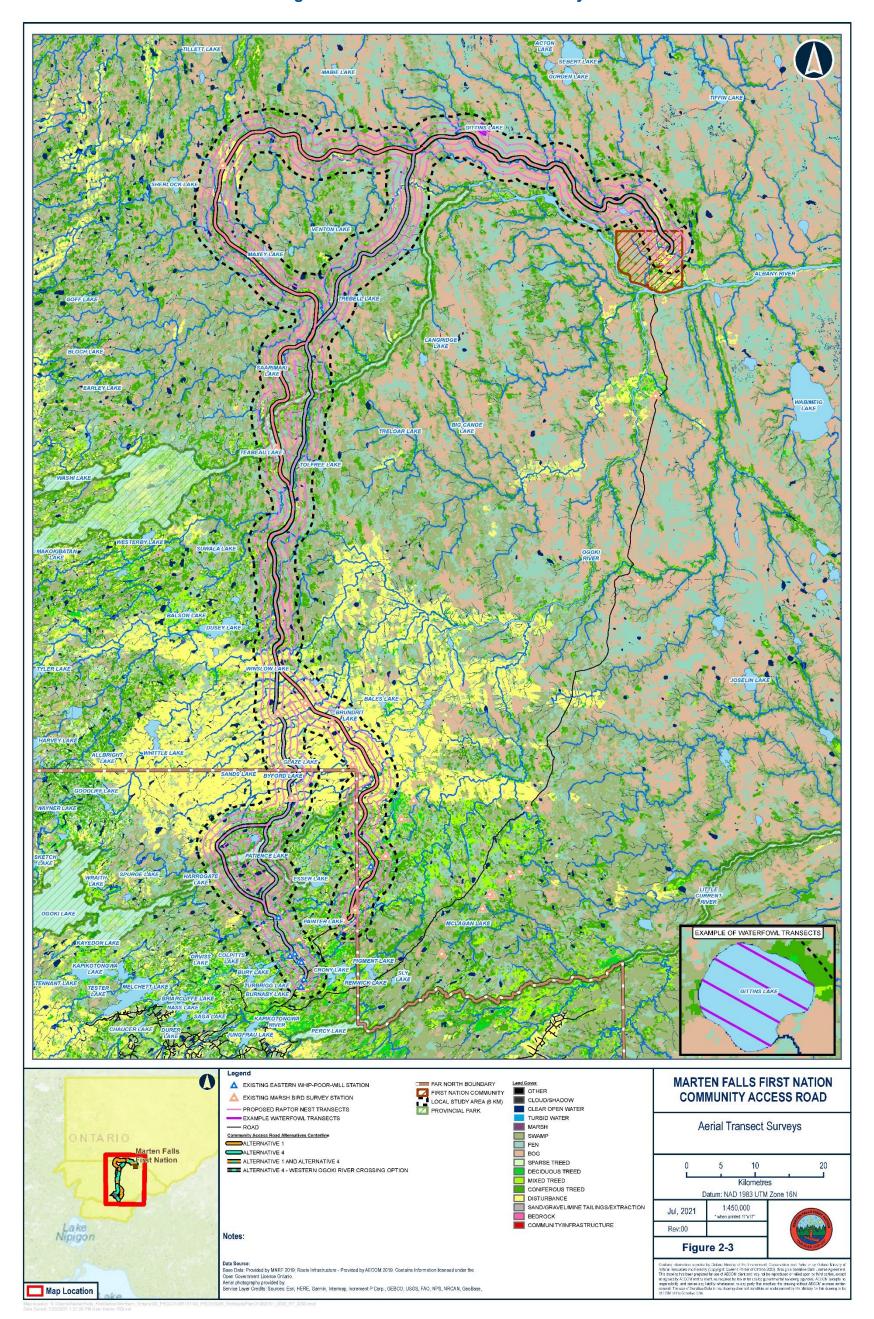




Figure 2-3: Bird Aerial Transect Surveys



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2.2 Program Staffing

The proposed staff participating in the birds field program are outlined in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2: Personnel Qualifications

Name	Title	Project Role	Credentials	Years of Experience*
Fergus Nicoll	Terrestrial and Wetland Specialist	Bird Component Lead, Field Lead/Author	Dip.T.	22
Connor Charchuck	Terrestrial Biologist	Statistical Lead	M.Sc.	8
Erin Greenaway	Senior Ecologist	Natural Sciences Lead, Senior Adviser, Senior Reviewer	B.Sc.	23
Luke Owens	Wildlife Biologist	Field Lead	B.A.	15
Jamie Weir	Fish and Wildlife Technologist	Field Lead	Dip.T.	16

Note: * Experience as of March 2021

Please note that the staffing for the birds field program may also rely on additional members from the MFFN CAR Project Consultant Team and / or members from local Indigenous communities.



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3. Discipline Specific-Schedule

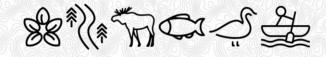
The proposed schedule for the birds field program is presented below in **Table 3-1**. This schedule is subject to change based on evolving climactic conditions in the Project Area, including forest fires.

Table 3-1: Program Schedule

Task / Program	Start Date (MM/YR)	Approximate Duration	Targeted VC Interaction
■ Breeding Bird Point Counts	■ June 1, 2022	■ Two trips of up to 14 days in length during the time period of June 1 through July 17 2022	■ Forest Birds, Wetland Birds
 ARU program (winter, spring migration, breeding, fall migration) 	■ February 2022	■ February 2022 to November 2022	■ Forest Birds, Wetland Birds, Raptors, SAR Birds
■ Marsh Bird Playback Surveys	■ May 2022	■ May through July 2022	■ Wetland Birds, SAR Birds
■ Species Specific Surveys	■ May 2022	■ May through July 2022	■ SAR Birds
■ Aerial Surveys	■ September 2021	■ Six trips of up to 3 days between September 2021 and July 2022	Raptors, Shorebirds, Waterfowl

Prior to field programs commencing, the following groups from the Project Contact List will be notified:

- Indigenous Community Key Contacts
- Tribal Councils, Provincial Territorial Organizations and Métis Nation of Ontario
- Other Indigenous Persons Identified for Consultation (including MFFN community members)
- Businesses
- Tourism Operators
- Community and Interest Groups and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Interested Parties / Potential Stakeholders Unaffiliated
- Government Review Team
- Non-Government Review Team agency representatives
- Forest Management Companies
- Mining Claim Holders
- Emergency Medical Services and Law Enforcement
- Neighbouring Projects and their Contacts
- Other Agency Representatives (elected Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament of Ontario)





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4. Health and Safety

4.1 General

Golder is committed to the health and safety of employees, clients, contractors and the public, with the understanding that all work performed by Golder is subject to strict health and safety policies and applicable federal, provincial, and municipal acts and regulations. Golder has internal Work Safe Practices for aerial work, remote work, cold weather work, and working around water. All field crew members will be expected to review these protocols prior to commencing surveys. In addition, the Golder survey teams will develop a project specific Health and Safety and Environmental Protection Plan (HaSEP) prior to conducting field work. The Project's HaSEP will be reviewed and discussed with all field crew members (including pilot and Indigenous crew members) prior to the survey's commencement.

The aerial / helicopter support for the Project will be designed and scheduled according to Golder's and the client's health and safety policies, procedures, and training. Restrictions on aircraft type and pilot proficiency will apply. Prior to daily take-off, the pilot will provide an aircraft orientation and safety briefing to all members of the survey team. The briefing will include identifying hazards, emergency response plans and procedures, and general helicopter protocol (including how to exit and enter an aircraft). As part of these briefings, hazards specific to the day's task will also be identified, discussed, and documented on a job safety and environmental analysis (JSEA) form, with a plan for all crew members to sign the JSEA. Field surveys will only occur when weather conditions allow safe aircraft operations, recognizing that (1) field crew members have the right to refuse substandard actions or conditions if the worker feels that these actions / conditions are imminently dangerous to their safety or to the safety of others and (2) field crew members should rely on pilot judgement as well as their own experienced and comfort level to determine if flights should occur or be prematurely terminated.

As part of each field day, field crew members will pack extra food, water, and clothing in case of aircraft mechanical trouble and unexpected delays. In addition, each field crews will carry a survival and first aid kit for emergency situations (supplementary to the aircraft emergency survival kit). Daily check-in times with a designated contact will be pre-determined as part of the HaSEP, noting that satellite phones or satellite communication devices (e.g., Garmin inReach) will be used in areas where cell phone coverage is not reliable.





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4.2 COVID-19

All COVID-19 related risk mitigation and recovery measures have been established in line with government protocols and AECOM corporate measures. Field crews will employ preventative COVID-19 actions including daily screening questionnaires and the use of Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves, masks, regular disinfection and social distancing.

Members of the field crews are not to attend site, or must remove themselves from site, if they fit any of the following criteria:

- They have symptoms associated with COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, sneezing / running nose or loss of sense of smell);
- They have been confirmed for COVID-19 or are awaiting the results from being tested for COVID-19;
- They have been in close-contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days; and / or
- They have returned, or been in contact with someone who has returned, from overseas in the past 14 days.

When working in the community, field crews will strictly adhere to the COVID-19 preventative measures as described above. Where community access is required to facilitate a field survey, entry will be discussed with the community in advance. As needed, a negative COVID-19 test will be presented prior to entering Indigenous communities.

Field crews will have access to an adequate supply of sanitizer, and, as part of this, the crew members will regularly sanitize their hands. Further to this: field crews will minimize use of shared tools and equipment, as practical (including the use of hand tools, electronic devices, pens, clipboards, and notepads); all work surfaces and equipment used in the course of work will be adequately cleaned and disinfected at the end of the work shift or more frequently when visibly soiled or used repeatedly; and cloth or surgical masks (as a minimum) will be worn by field crews at all times during the course of work and in transit to the work site in line with government direction.





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For all workers, regardless of specific exposure risks, it is always a good practice to:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, noting that, when soap and running water are unavailable, use of an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol is suggested.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze, and immediately dispose of the used tissue.
- Stay home if you are sick.





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5. References

AECOM Canada Ltd. (AECOM), 2020:

Marten Falls First Nation Proposed Terms of Reference Marten Falls Community Access Road – Environmental Assessment

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), 2020:

Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project. https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p80184/133937E.pdf

Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road Project (MFFN CAR), 2021: Birds Study Plan





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