

Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

UPDATE ON REGIONAL ASSESSMENT PLANNING – JUNE 20 AND JUNE 22



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada

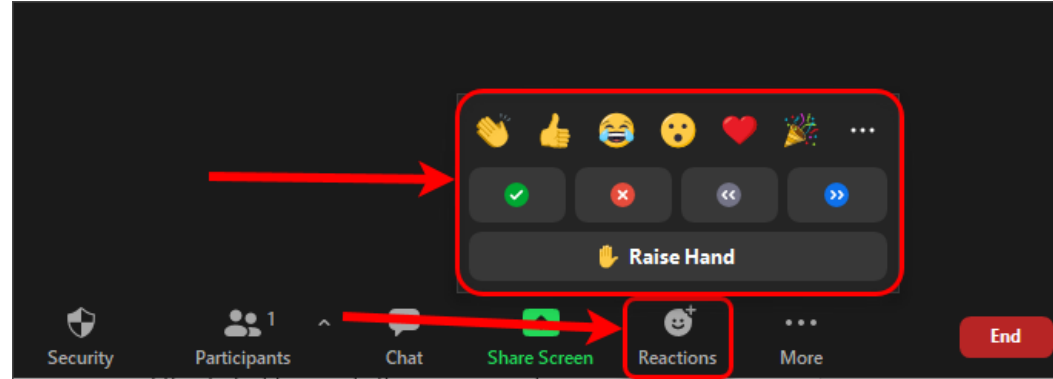
Outline

1. Regional Assessments Under the *Impact Assessment Act*
2. Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area
3. Current and future opportunities to participate in regional assessment planning
 1. Public information sessions
 2. Written comments
 3. Future review of draft documents
4. Links and Contact Information

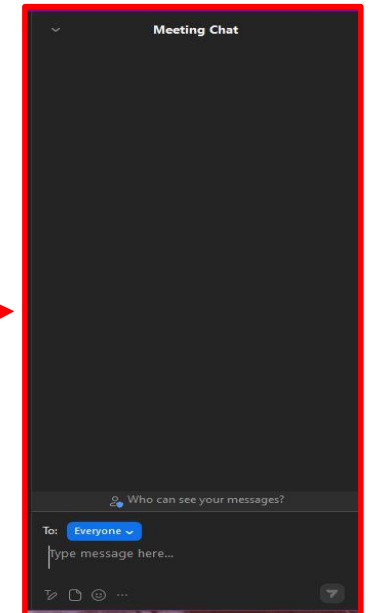
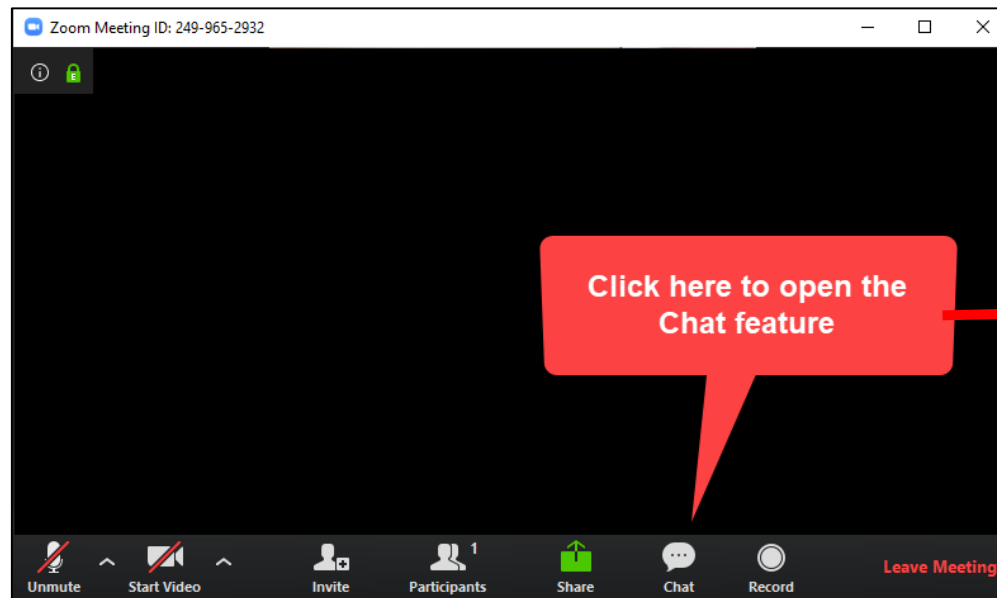


Submitting a question - ZOOM

- Verbally with the Raise Hand function



- Written with the Chat function



2. Regional Assessment Under the *Impact Assessment Act*



Who is the Agency?

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency)

- The Agency has responsibilities under the *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act) including conducting **project** impact assessments and delivering the **regional** and **strategic assessments program**
- The Agency is responsible for working with federal departments and collaborating with or engaging other levels of government, Indigenous communities and organizations, industry, non-government organizations and individuals
- **All types of assessments under the Act require meaningful participation**
- Prior to the coming into force of the Act on August 28, 2019, the Agency was known as the **Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**



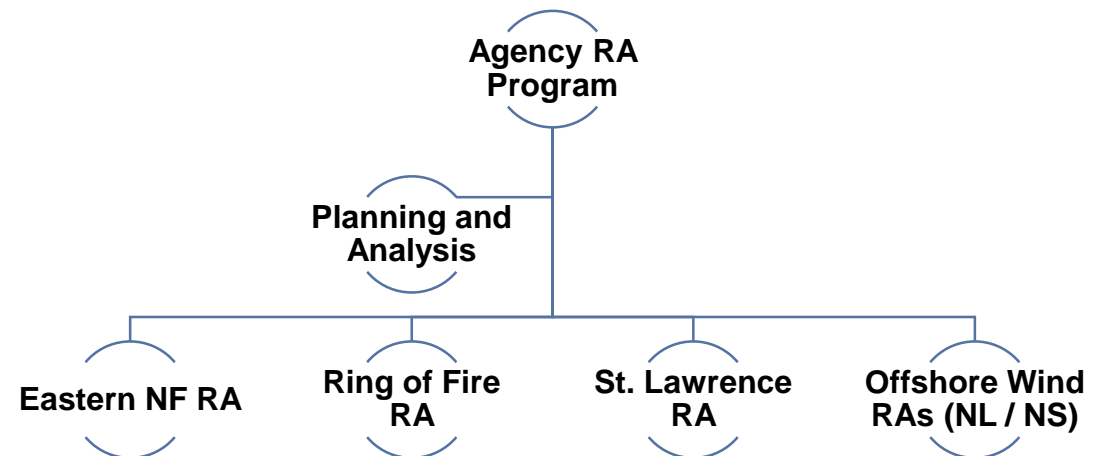
What are Regional Assessments?

Regional Assessments are studies of existing and/or anticipated development in a region and help manage cumulative effects.

They provide information, analysis and regional context to inform and improve future Impact Assessments / decision-making

- The *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act) allows the Minister to establish a committee or authorize the Agency to conduct a Regional Assessment (RA)
- The Act sets out general procedural requirements for RAs, but RA goals, objectives, activities, outputs, timelines are RA-specific, set out in RA Terms of Reference
- The Agency funds RA planning and conduct phases
- RAs must be considered at several points in subsequent project impact assessments

RAs have the overall objective of *improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Impact Assessments*



General Steps in a Regional Assessment



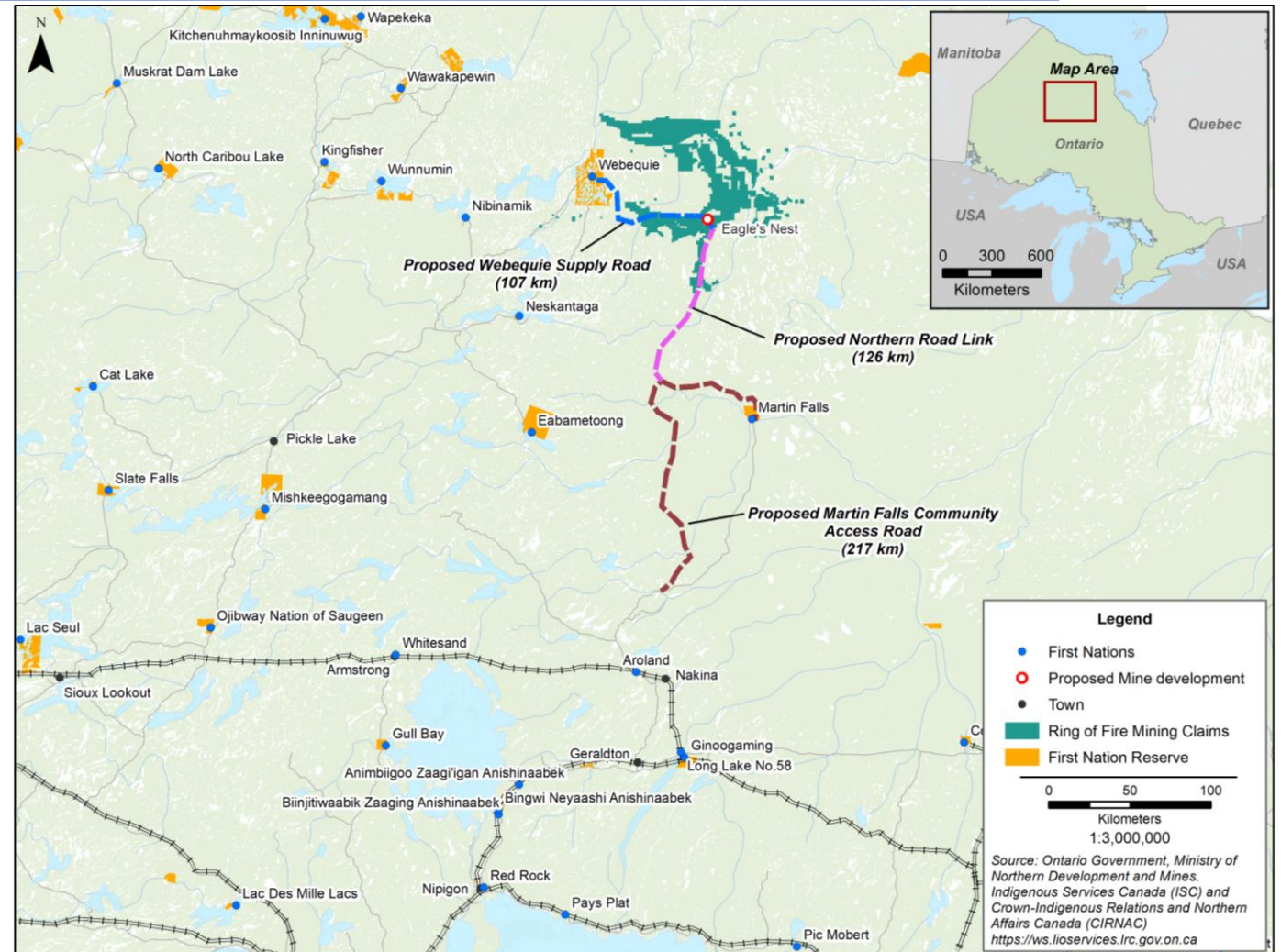
3. Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area



Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

Description of the region:

- The people
- The environment
- The mineral resources
- Ongoing IAs



Reasons For a Regional Assessment (RA)

In **February 2020**, the Minister decided that a Regional Assessment will be conducted in the Ring of Fire Area in response to requests from an Indigenous community and two non-government organizations (posted on [Registry](#))

- An RA could inform future project-specific federal impact assessments and decisions
- Anticipated developments have the potential to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction such as: climate change, effects on fish and fish habitat; migratory bird populations; and wildlife listed under the *Species at Risk Act*
- There are opportunities to collaborate with the province of Ontario and to involve Indigenous groups, non-government organizations, and others in the planning and conduct of a regional assessment
- There are potential impact to the rights and interests of Indigenous people from potential future development in the area
- There is public interest related to development resulting in cumulative effects in the area

Recent Events

- In **December 2021**, Indigenous groups provided comments on a draft Terms of Reference, advocating for Indigenous groups to be involved as full partners.
- In **January 2022**, Minister Guilbeault met with Indigenous leaders and committed to further discussions prior to moving forward.
- In **January 2023**, Minister Guilbeault met with Indigenous leaders in person, with a focus on resetting the relationship. The Minister underscored commitment to a **co-led** assessment with Indigenous groups and the province (see [Minister's letter](#) for further detail).



Current Status

- Initial meetings began winter 2023 between the Agency and delegates from participating Indigenous communities, appointed by their leadership.
- Discussions have focused on relationship building, collaboration and preliminary planning.
- In-person meetings aimed at substantive progress towards a co-developed Terms of Reference are planned.
- All partners agree that the RA must be conducted promptly and as a top priority.
- As the working group progresses, there will be opportunity for the public to inform the development of the Terms of Reference and review the eventual Draft version.



4. Participation in the Regional Assessment



Participant Funding Program

- Public Funding: the public was notified through a news release on **May 24, 2023**, of the availability of funds at the start of the engagement activity
 - Applications due **June 23, 2023**
- Funds will partially cover costs that may be incurred by the participants during the planning of the regional assessment
- Additional funding will be made available for participation in the conduct of the regional assessment

Planning the RA – Anticipated Schedule

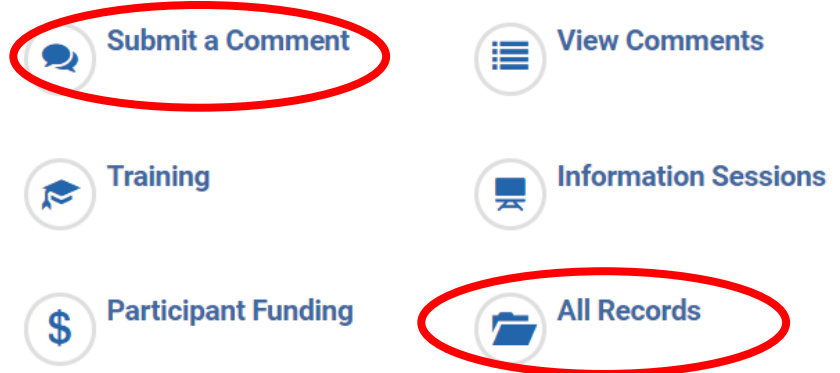
Part of Planning Phase	ACTION
Stage 1 – Work Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency and Indigenous partners establish a Terms of Reference Working Group. • Agency conducts virtual information sessions for participants • Public funding applications due June 23
Stage 2 – Development of TOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group conducts public engagement to inform the development of the Terms of Reference • Working Group develops a draft Terms of Reference for a Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area
Stage 3 – Review of TOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment period on draft Terms of Reference • Finalization of Terms of Reference • RA commencement



How to Participate

- Contact Agency to request meetings
- Email written submissions
- Registry site
- Other means

Participate



Key documents

Document Number	Document Title	File	Date
102	Minister's Letter to Indigenous Leaders - Feb 15, 2023	PDF (3 MB)	February 15, 2023
1	Minister's response	-	February 10, 2020

Contacts

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 Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
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5. Contacts & Supporting Links



Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire area

Contacts

Project Manager – Colter Kelly – Colter.Kelly@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Indigenous Engagement lead – Rachelle Lalonde – Rachelle.Lalonde@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

ROF Generic inbox – regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Funding Programs – Monica Losier Monica.Losier@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Registry

Ring of Fire Area RA Registry #80468: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80468>



Impact Assessment Agency

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html>

Impact Assessment Act (sections 92-94, 96-103)

<https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/I-2.75/index.html>

Regional and Strategic Assessments

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/regional-strategic-assessments.html>

[Fact sheet: Regional Assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act*](#)

IAAC Training Links

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/014/index-eng.aspx>

e-learning

https://elearning.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/mod00/mod00_00_01-en.html



Questions

Send written questions or comments to:

Registry <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80468>

or

General email: regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

