

## Planning the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) determined that a regional assessment would be conducted in an area centred on the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in northern Ontario, approximately 540 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay and 1,000 kilometres north of Toronto.

In January 2023, the Minister met with Indigenous leadership in Thunder Bay and committed to restarting the process and pursuing a co-led and co-developed regional assessment between the Government of Canada, First Nation Partners and possibly the Province of Ontario.

### Developing the terms of reference

Under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), the Minister may instruct the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) to conduct a regional assessment. As such, the Agency and First Nation Partners from Matawa and Mushkegowuk traditional territories have created a Working Group tasked with co-developing a **draft Terms of Reference to conduct a regional assessment in the Ring of Fire area**, which will guide the conduct of the regional assessment (Planning Phase). The Working Group has been meeting regularly to build a relationship based on respect and trust and to plan a regional assessment process that will meet the requirements and interests of all parties.

The Agency, on behalf of the Working Group, will be inviting interested members of the public, Indigenous people and organizations to review and provide comments on the draft Terms of Reference, once drafted. A Public Notice announcing the comment period will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (the registry; reference number [80468](#)).

Input received from participants will also be posted to the registry, and considered by the Working Group as they finalize the **draft Terms of Reference** for the regional assessment. The terms of reference will establish the regional assessment's mandate and will specify the assessment area, assessment priorities, time limits and other details about the assessment.

Participants are also invited to inform the Agency about any additional information, views, considerations, or concerns that they may have that should be considered in planning the regional assessment. Below are some questions that participants may consider when preparing input for the Agency.

### Questions for consideration

#### 1. ENGAGEMENT

Do you or your organization have a preferred way you would like to engage in the planning (or eventual conduct) of the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire area?

Please provide any preferences, requirements or recommendations for engagement.

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#### 2. INFORMATION & KNOWLEDGE

Do you or your organization have information, knowledge, studies, or reports that may be relevant to the conduct of the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire area that you would like to identify at this time?

Please specify the information, studies and/or reports as appropriate.

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### 3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Do you or your organization have any additional and relevant information or knowledge, not specified above, that you would like to share with the Agency?

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Agency employees are available to discuss the regional assessment and future funding opportunities. To contact the Agency, or to join the email distribution list for the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire area, please email [regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca). Members of the distribution list will receive email notifications when engagement or funding opportunities are posted on the [project home page](#) of the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (reference number [80468](#)).