



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

March 19, 2021

**Sent by email**

Peter Rivers, Councillor Region 9  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
1039 Clover Avenue  
Windsor ON N8V 1V8  
rivers\_peter@hotmail.com

Dear Councillor Peter Rivers:

**Subject: Request for Comments on the Potential Impact Assessment of the Proposed Waterloo Airport Runway Project**

I am writing to follow-up on a letter sent on January 6, 2021, wherein the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada provided an early notification to the Métis Nation of Ontario about the proposed Waterloo Airport Runway Project, located within your traditional territory.

On March 19, 2021, the Agency accepted the Initial Project Description for the Project from the Region of Waterloo International Airport (the proponent) as meeting the requirements of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations* under the *Impact Assessment Act*. As of today, the 180-day planning phase of the impact assessment has commenced, thus we are seeking your views on the potential effects of the Project and on your preferences in consultation and engagement approaches.

**The Proposed Project**

The Region of Waterloo International Airport is proposing to extend runway 14-32 from the current length of 1,250 metres to a final length of 2,134 metres, construct new access roads and a parallel taxiway, modify the runway approach lighting, and expand or relocate the terminal building. This work would improve the overall use of the airport, located in Breslau, Ontario, by upgrading the runway, which is currently capable of serving aircraft of Aircraft Group Number IIIA, so that it would become capable of serving aircraft of Aircraft Group Number IIIB.

A summary of the Initial Project Description is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at: <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/138384>

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### **Participation in the impact assessment planning phase**

Pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Agency is initiating consultation activities with Indigenous groups, as well as engaging the public and other participants. A public comment period on the summary of the Initial Project Description is taking place from March 19, 2021, to April 18, 2021.

### **Request for comments**

The Agency is seeking your initial views on the following matters:

- Any environmental effects and impacts of the Project that are of concern to your community including any anticipated environmental effects and additional impacts that are not listed in the Initial Project Description.
- How the project and associated environmental effects could result in positive or negative changes to your community's:
  - health conditions (e.g. country foods, drinking water, air quality)
  - socio-economic conditions (e.g. economic development, access to jobs, access to resources);
  - physical and cultural heritage (e.g. ceremonial sites, burial sites, cultural landscapes);
  - current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (e.g. hunting, fishing, trapping); or
  - structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance (e.g. artifacts, important historical buildings or symbols).
- Any potential impacts of the Project on Métis Nation of Ontario's exercise of Aboriginal rights as protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, that are not listed in the Initial Project Description.
- Preferences and expectations of both Agency consultation activities and proponent engagement activities in relation to the Project.

A comment form (Enclosure 1) is provided as an attachment to this letter to assist you in responding to the questions above, or you may reply in a format of your choice. For your review and verification, the comment form also includes a summary of your community's views on the Project that were previously shared with the Agency to date.

Comments received by **April 18, 2021**, will inform the development of a Summary of Issues prepared by the Agency, which includes the issues raised by Indigenous groups and other participants. The Agency will provide the Summary of Issues to the proponent and post a copy to the Registry. The proponent will be required to submit a Detailed Project Description to the Agency that outlines how it plans to address the issues raised. The proponent's documents and input from Indigenous groups and other participants will then be considered by the Agency in its decision on whether to require a federal impact assessment for the Project.

Should the Agency determine that a federal impact assessment is required, the Agency will be leading consultation efforts on behalf of the Government of Canada, to ensure a meaningful and responsive two way dialogue takes place with the Métis Nation of Ontario in respect of the Project and any potential impacts it may have on the exercise of Aboriginal rights.

### **How to provide your comments**

Comments on the Project can be provided to the Agency contact provided below, or submitted via the *Submit a Comment* feature available on the Project's Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page (Reference #81452 at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/81452>). Letters and forms can also be uploaded using this feature. If you have any questions or difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency using the contact provided below for assistance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please note that any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file and on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry. However, there are certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality.

The Agency's Submission Policy<sup>1</sup> determines which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

<sup>2</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>

### **Funding Program Grants**

As indicated in the Agency's early notification letter of January 6, 2020, the Agency is able to offer grant funding to support the Métis Nation of Ontario's participation during the planning phase of the federal impact assessment process:

- An initial grant of **\$5,000.00** is being offered now to support your community's review of the proponent's Initial Project Description, as the Agency has accepted an Initial Project Description from the proponent; and
- A second grant of **\$5,000.00** would be offered to support your community's involvement in the development of the Agency's Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, if a federal impact assessment is required.

If a federal impact assessment is required, the Agency will offer additional funding to support the continued participation of the Métis Nation of Ontario throughout subsequent phases of the process.

The Agency understands that Nathalie Boivin, Senior Funding Officer has been in contact with you about the funding opportunities for the planning phase. More information on the Agency's funding programs and the federal impact assessment process can be found on the Agency's website.<sup>3</sup>

### **Contacting the Agency**

Ian Lindsay will be coordinating Crown consultation for the Project on behalf of the Agency. Ian will be in touch with you to confirm your receipt of this letter and to discuss any questions you may have about the impact assessment process and to further dialogue on the Project as part of the consultation process. Alternatively, you may contact Ian at 416-476-1186 or by email at IAAC.Waterloo.AEIC@canada.ca

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>

**COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Agency acknowledges that responding to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires extensive resources and that public health measures currently take priority for many communities. Please be assured that the Agency remains flexible and able to adapt our conduct as necessary to prioritize the health and safety of communities participating in impact assessments. The Agency will continue to update you about potential impact assessment activities at regular intervals. For further information on the Agency's approach to consultation during the ongoing pandemic, please review the Agency's commitments regarding consultation during COVID-19 pandemic (Enclosure 2).

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan  
Director, Ontario Region

Enclosures: 1) Comment Form: Information to Inform the Summary of Issues  
2) Agency's commitments regarding consultation during  
COVID-19 pandemic

c.c.: Jennifer Parkinson, President of Grand River Métis Council  
Bonnie Bartlett, Lands Resources and Consultation,  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
Linda Norheim, Lands Resources and Consultation,  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
Ted Cousins, Lands Resources and Consultation,  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
Joe de Laronde, Lands Resources and Consultation,  
Métis Nation of Ontario