

Notice of intent to make a determination

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg New K4-8 School – Public Comments Invited

June 16, 2021 – Indigenous Services Canada must determine whether the proposed Biigtigong Nishnaabeg New K4-8 School, located in Biigtigong Nishnaabeg First Nation is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. To help inform this determination, Indigenous Services Canada is inviting comments from the public respecting that determination.

Written comments must be submitted by [deadline for receipt of comments July 16, 2021 to:

Aaron Pervais

Indigenous Services Canada

Aaron Pervais, Environmental Officer

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The Proposed Project

The Project involves the construction of a new K4-8 school approximately 2,780square meters (m²) in area, on a single level, located on the south side of Access Road in the community. The site is located on 4.4 hectares (ha) where land has been partially cleared for an athletic field, baseball diamond and a preloading geotechnical location for a former school design. The community was presented with three design options and Option A was chosen as the preferred design. Option A includes the new school, play areas for K4 and Grades 1-8, an outdoor education area, ball diamond and sports field. The new school will contain seven classrooms for Grades 1-8, one large kindergarten classroom, a gymnasium with stage and a kitchen and cafeteria located adjacent. Additional rooms will include a native language and culture/land based education classroom, staff offices, washrooms, change rooms, special education areas and a library for both school and public use. The building will be designed so that the gym, kitchen and library areas will remain accessible to the community after school hours while the classroom wings can be locked. Washrooms in the new school will be single stall stand-alone washrooms that are separated by gender with a common sink room for a total of seven washrooms. Kindergarten classroom will have two stand-alone cubicle washrooms. The base of the building will consist of concrete slab on grade with radiant floor heating. The school is to be designed to take into account prevailing winds from the southwest and to incorporate appropriate drainage and sun path to make for more hospitable play areas. The septic field will be located on the southwest side of the site to allow for natural trails to continue into the natural treed area from the outdoor education area.