



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

October 22, 2021

Sent by email

Chief Alex (Sonny) Batisse  
Matachewan First Nation  
P.O. Box 160  
Matachewan ON P0K 1M0

<Email address removed>

Dear Chief Alex (Sonny) Batisse:

**Subject: Next Steps in the Planning Phase for the Potential Federal Impact Assessment of the Proposed Upper Beaver Gold Project**

On behalf of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), I wish to thank Matachewan First Nation for providing comments on the proposed Upper Beaver Gold Project (the Project) during the recent public comment period held from September 13, 2021, to October 4, 2021. Based on the input received from Matachewan First Nation, other Indigenous groups, federal authorities, provincial ministries, and the public, the Agency has developed a Summary of Issues related to the Project. The Summary of Issues has been provided to the proponent and posted to the Registry at the following link:

[iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960#keyDocumentsTable](http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960#keyDocumentsTable)

The Agency expects to receive the proponent's Detailed Project Description by November 12, 2021. Once received, the Agency will consider the proponent's Detailed Project Description, including how the proponent plans to address the issues raised in the Summary of Issues, and will then determine whether a federal impact assessment is required pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act*. The Agency will follow up with Matachewan First Nation to convey the outcome of this determination and share how comments received during the comment period were taken into account.

**Anticipated Timelines for the Planning Phase**

In the table below, I have provided an overview of the anticipated timelines for the remaining steps in the planning phase of the Project. The timelines are in accordance with the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*:

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<b>Activity</b>	<b>Anticipated Timing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proponent submits to the Agency, a Detailed Project Description and responds to the Summary of Issues.</li></ul>	November 12, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agency reviews Detailed Project Description including proponent's response to the Summary of Issues, ensuring the proponent has provided all information required by the <i>Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations</i>.</li></ul>	November 22, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agency considers comments received from Indigenous groups, among other factors, in deciding whether a federal impact assessment is required.</li><li>• Agency posts its decision on whether a federal impact assessment is required to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry and provides reasons.</li><li>• Agency sends letters notifying Indigenous groups of the federal impact assessment decision and any next steps.</li></ul>	November 22, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agency sends letters notifying Indigenous groups on how comments received during the comment period were considered.</li></ul>	December 2021

More information on Indigenous participation opportunities can be found in the Practitioner's Guide to Federal Impact Assessments on the Agency's website at: [canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/guidance-indigenous-participation-ia](https://canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/guidance-indigenous-participation-ia)

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [upperbeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:upperbeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) or 647-355-7318.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Spencer Roth  
Project Analyst

c.c.: Kayla Schram, Matachewan First Nation  
Nicole Charbonneau, Wabun Tribal Council