



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 (Ontario) M5J 1R7

March 31, 2023

Sent by email

Victoria Stinson  
Métis Nation of Ontario (Region 3)  
226 May Street South  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4  
<email address removed>

Dear Victoria Stinson:

**Subject: Notice of Commencement of the Impact Assessment for the  
Crawford Nickel Project**

Thank you for your continued participation in the Planning Phase of the federal impact assessment for the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project) proposed by the Canada Nickel Company (the Proponent).

On March 31, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) commenced an impact assessment pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act* for the Project. The following documents were posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website<sup>1</sup> (Registry #83857) and will inform the impact assessment process:

- Notice of Commencement
- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Cooperation Plan with the Province of Ontario
- Permitting Plan

The Agency appreciates the comments provided by the Métis Nation of Ontario on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan as they informed the final versions.

The Project is now in the Impact Statement Phase. The Agency must be satisfied that the Proponent provided the required information and studies set out in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines within three years of the Notice of Commencement.

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857>

Please note, in accordance with section 36 of the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada has until 45 days after the Notice of Commencement to refer the impact assessment to a review panel. If the assessment is referred to a review panel, a notice will be posted to the Registry website.

### **Next Steps**

In the coming weeks, the Agency will follow-up with the Métis Nation of Ontario with a separate letter that will include a summary table of comments received during the Planning Phase, and the Agency response, including how your comments were taken into account in finalizing the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.

At that time, the Agency will share, for validation by the Métis Nation of Ontario, a revised draft of a summary of information available to the Agency on potential impacts of the Project on the Métis Nation of Ontario. An initial draft of this document was first shared with the Métis Nation of Ontario on January 5, 2023, and has been developed and revised based on your participation during the Planning Phase for the Project. The document contains a summary of:

- a) the nature and extent of the Métis Nation of Ontario Aboriginal rights;
- b) the potential impacts of the Project to the exercise of the Métis Nation of Ontario's rights; and
- c) potential impacts of the Project on health, social, or economic conditions of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

The Agency will also provide information about the next steps in the federal impact assessment process, including upcoming funding opportunities.

The Agency intends to share the summary table of comments and the summary of information available to the Agency on potential impacts of the Project on the Métis Nation of Ontario with the Proponent to inform its work while preparing the Impact Statement.

Please contact me at 902-399-8838 or at [Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) if you have any questions. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Métis Nation of Ontario in the next phases of the impact assessment process.

Sincerely,

**Norton,  
Erin**

Digitally signed by  
Norton, Erin  
Date: 2023.03.31  
12:13:25 -03'00'

Erin Norton  
Crown Consultation Coordinator  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

c.c.: Andy Lefebvre, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Dustin Shultz, Métis Nation of Ontario  
David Hamilton, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Hope Hill, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Jacques Picotte, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Liliane Ethier, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Linda Norheim, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Lorette McKnight, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Pierre (Pete) Lefebvre, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Steven Sarrazin, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Urgel Courville, Métis Nation of Ontario