

Enclosure 1: Summary of information on potential impacts of the Crawford Nickel Project on the Métis Nation of Ontario

This **draft** document was prepared by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) during the Planning Phase for the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project). The purpose of this document is to set out the Agency's preliminary understanding of the **potential** impacts of the Project on the Métis Nation of Ontario. The Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Project will identify all of the valued components the Proponent will be required to study during the preparation of its Impact Statement. As additional information about impacts of the Project that are specific to the Métis Nation of Ontario becomes available throughout the impact assessment process, this document will be updated, and will inform the Proponent's studies and the impact assessment.

The Proposed Project

Canada Nickel Company (the Proponent) is proposing an open-pit nickel-cobalt mine and metal mill, located 43 kilometres north of Timmins, Ontario. Based on available information, the "project area" includes:

- *a large mine site footprint of > 5000 ha, including open pits, waste rock piles and a tailings management facility, predominantly within the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River watersheds;*
- *relocation of Highway 655 and existing 500 kV transmission line to the west of the mine, including approximately 20 km of new right of way;*
- *effluent discharge pipe(s) to locations that may include the Mattagami River downstream of Lower Sturgeon Dam, the North Driftwood River, and the West Buskegau River;*
- *a new rail spur from the proposed mine south to Kidd Mine, following Highway 655; and*
- *transport of ore along an existing rail line between Kidd Mine and Kidd metallurgical site.*

Summary of Information Available to the Agency about:

- a) the nature and extent of the Métis Nation of Ontario's 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.**

a) Summary of the information available to the Agency related to the nature and extent of the Métis Nation of Ontario's Aboriginal rights:

- Citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario have Aboriginal rights that are recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- The project area lies within the Métis Nation of Ontario's James Bay/Abitibi-Temiscamingue Traditional Territory, represented by the James Bay/Abitibi-Temiscamingue Traditional Territory (Region 3) Consultation Committee, as per the Consultation Agreement between the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Government of Canada.
- The Métis Nation of Ontario have harvesting rights under the Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting with the Province of Ontario.

- b) Summary of the information available to the Agency on the potential impacts to the exercise of the Métis Nation of Ontario's rights resulting from any change to the environment due to the Project:

Potential impacts to physical and cultural heritage

- Potential impacts to historic and contemporary cultural sites present in the project area, due to loss of access to, or changes to the experience at, preferred sites.

Potential impacts to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes

- Potential impacts to the current use of land for traditional purposes, including harvesting (hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering), spiritual practices, and cultural practices, due to loss of access to, or changes to the experience at, preferred sites.
- Potential impacts to the use of water in the project area by citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario.
- Potential impacts to harvesting, fishing, the gathering of plants and mushrooms, and cultural practices due to possible change in water quality at the effluent discharge point.
- Potential impacts to harvesting rights due to changes to experience resulting from increased noise from road and rail traffic.
- Potential impacts to harvesting rights due to increased noise disturbance in moose calving sites and avoidance of previous harvesting areas, as well as impacts to habitat and aquatic feeding areas used by moose.
- Potential changes to, or loss of access to, traditional lands in the project area.

Potential impacts to any structure, site, or thing that is of historical, archeological, paleontological, or architectural significance

- No information is currently available.

- c) Summary of the information available to the Agency on any potential changes to the health, social, or economic conditions of the Métis Nation of Ontario due to the Project:

- Potential impacts to housing costs, impacting low-income citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario.
- Potential decrease in community safety, and impacts to diverse subpopulations, due to the increase in transient workers in the region.

FOR ACTION: The Agency requests that you validate the information set out above and provide any additional information about the impacts the Project may have on the Métis Nation of Ontario. Additional details about the nature and extent of potential impacts to the Métis Nation of Ontario or the exercise of rights of the Métis Nation of Ontario may refine our understanding of the potential impacts of the Project, and allow the Agency to adjust its consultation approach, where necessary. In addition, the Agency would like to meet with your community to discuss the information set out above to better understand how your community may be impacted by the Project. The Agency encourages the Métis Nation of Ontario to share information with the Proponent to inform the development of the Proponent's Impact Statement.