

Enclosure 1: Summary of information on potential impacts of the Crawford Nickel Project on Taykwa Tagamou Nation

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 Taykwa Tagamou Nation. 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 Taykwa Tagamou Nation 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 Taykwa Tagamou Nation's Aboriginal and treaty rights;**
 - b) the potential impacts of the Project to the exercise of Taykwa Tagamou Nation's rights;**
 - c) potential impacts of the Project on health, social, or economic conditions of Taykwa Tagamou Nation; and**
 - d) potential cumulative changes to the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights of Taykwa Tagamou Nation through time.**
- a) Summary of the information available to the Agency related to the nature and extent of Taykwa Tagamou Nation's Aboriginal and treaty rights:
- Members of Taykwa Tagamou Nation have Aboriginal and treaty rights that are recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
 - Taykwa Tagamou Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9, which provides rights to hunting, trapping and fishing throughout the treaty area.
 - Taykwa Tagamou Nation has two reserves. New Post No. 69A is located approximately 43 kilometres north-east of the mine site, and New Post No. 69 is located approximately 113 kilometres north of the mine site.
 - The project area is located within the traditional territory of Taykwa Tagamou Nation.

- Taykwa Tagamou Nation is affiliated with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario and Mushkegowuk Tribal Council.

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

Potential impacts to physical and cultural heritage

- Potential impacts to the Mattagami River, North Driftwood River, and West Buskegau River, which are of significant cultural and ecological importance to Taykwa Tagamou Nation.

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

- Potential impacts to Taykwa Tagamou Nation's ability to use water, fish, harvest wildlife, or access preferred transportation corridors as result of potential changes to water quantity or water quality, including as a result of effluent discharge, in the Mattagami River, the North Driftwood River, and the West Buskegau River.
- Potential impacts to Taykwa Tagamou Nation's ability to harvest fish or wildlife as a result of overprinting of:
 - tributaries downstream of the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River; and
 - the proposed rerouted Highway 665 to unnamed lakes/ponds that flow into Jocko Creek, and ultimately into the Mattagami River.
- Potential impacts to Taykwa Tagamou Nation's ability to rely on the Abitibi River and the Mattagami River, as well as their headwaters (e.g. the North Driftwood River, the West Buskegau River, Martin Lake, Gerry Lake, Jack Lake, Sutherland Lake, and Davis Lake), for hunting, fishing, and as preferred transportation corridors due to changes to water quality, water quantity, or habitat as the waterbodies are in close proximity to project components (e.g. the process plant and tailings management facility).
- Potential impacts on Taykwa Tagamou Nation members' exercise of rights near the new rail spur line and existing rail line as a result of increased wildlife collisions, noise, and disturbance in the railway corridor.

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 Taykwa Tagamou Nation due to the Project:

- Potential socio-economic impacts to Taykwa Tagamou Nation resulting from an influx of transient workers from outside the community. Potential impacts include:
 - impacts on the community and social services;
 - impacts on housing costs and/or availability of housing for community members living off reserve;
 - impacts on health and psycho-social well-being of Taykwa Tagamou Nation members;
 - decrease in community safety and potential impacts on diverse subpopulations; and

- increased natural resource pressures as a result of transient or temporary workers harvesting fish/wildlife in the area.
 - Potential impacts on health due to the potential of bio-accumulating substances (e.g. mercury) mobilized by the Project entering the aquatic food web. Taykwa Tagamou Nation members harvest large-bodied fish from the downstream environment.
- d) Summary of the information available to the Agency on any potential cumulative changes to the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights of Taykwa Tagamou Nation through time:
- Potential impacts on traditional practices due to past and ongoing mining, hydroelectric, forestry, agriculture, pipelines, and transmission line projects.

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 Taykwa Tagamou Nation. Additional details about the nature and extent of potential impacts to Taykwa Tagamou Nation or the exercise of rights of Taykwa Tagamou Nation 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 Taykwa Tagamou Nation to share information with the Proponent to inform the development of the Proponent's Impact Statement.