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March 31, 2023,

Sent by email

Chief Wayne Moonias  
Neskantaga First Nation  
P.O Box 105  
Lansdowne House ON P0T 1Z0  
<email address removed>

Dear Chief Wayne Moonias:

**Subject: Next Steps in the Planning Phase for the Potential Federal Impact Assessment of the Proposed Northern Road Link Project**

On February 21, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) invited Neskantaga First Nation to comment on the Summary of the Initial Project Description for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project), proposed by Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent). The comment period ended on March 23, 2023, and the Agency is following up, to confirm whether Neskantaga First Nation wishes to comment and participate in the federal impact assessment process for the Project.

The Agency has developed a Summary of Issues related to the Project based on input received from Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, municipalities, and the public, during the comment period. The Summary of Issues was provided to the Proponent and will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site.

**Anticipated Timelines for the Planning Phase**

The Agency expects to receive the Proponent's Detailed Project Description and Response to the Summary of Issues on April 30, 2023. Once received, the Agency will consider the 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 notice of decision, and the reasons for it, will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site.

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-2-

If an impact assessment is required, the Agency would prepare the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, taking into account available information, and would invite your community to comment on these draft documents.

Please note that the Proponent may notify the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Agency that it wishes to suspend the legislated time limit for the planning phase, to provide itself more time to prepare the Detailed Project Description and the response to the Summary of Issues. If such a request is received and accepted, the Agency would post a notice on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site.

### **Request for Information**

On February 21, 2023, the Agency sought your views on the potential effects of the Project. Comments you provide now could still inform the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the impact assessment, should one be required. For your convenience, I have attached the February 21, 2023, letter, which includes guiding questions and instructions for how to send comments.

***If your community does not have an interest in this project, and wishes not to receive correspondence from the Agency about this project, please respond to let us know.***

More information on Indigenous participation opportunities can be found in the *Practitioner's Guide to Federal Impact Assessments* on the Agency's website<sup>1</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

Weisbrot, Ely

<original signed by>

Ely Weisbrot  
A/Project Manager

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<sup>1</sup> [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)

c.c.: Chris Moonias, Community Coordinator, Neskantaga First Nation  
Dennis Forbes, Neskantaga First Nation  
Leroy Moonias, Executive Secretary, Neskantaga First Nation  
Joan Kuyek, Technical Lead  
Dayna Scott, Consultant, Osgoode Law Law School

Enclosure: February 21, 2023 Letter from the Impact  
Assessment Agency of Canada