

Dear Federal Review Teams,

Thank you for providing comments on the Northern Road Link Project (the Project), proposed by Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent), and for commenting on the Proponent's Initial Project Description.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) conducted a public comment period from February 21 to March 23, 2023, to invite input from Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, municipalities, and the public.

The Summary of Issues document, which reflects the comments received by the Agency in conjunction with the information already available in the Proponent's Initial Project Description, was submitted to the Proponent on March 31, 2023, and will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>. The Internet site also includes the comments that were received from Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, municipalities, and the public.

Next steps

Pursuant to subsection 15(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), the Proponent must provide the Agency with a Detailed Project Description that sets out how it intends to address the issues in the Summary of Issues and includes the information described in Schedule 2 of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*.

For your information: The Proponent may notify the Minister of Environment and Climate Change that it wishes to suspend the legislated time limit for the planning phase of the impact assessment process, to provide itself more time to prepare the Detailed Project Description, along with their 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 for the Project and would notify the Federal Review Team.

The Detailed Project Description and the Proponent's responses to the Summary of Issues will inform the Agency's decision of whether an impact assessment is required for the Project. If an impact assessment is required, the Agency would prepare the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Permitting Plan, and would reach out to your department or agency to seek your views on these documents.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Ely Weisbrot

Northern Road Link Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada
NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca / <personal information removed>

Projet de la route de raccordement du Nord
Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca / <données d'identification caviardées>