

## **Enclosure 1: Summary of Information on Potential for Impacts on the Métis Nation of Ontario from the Northern Road Link Project**

This **draft** document was prepared by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) to set out the Agency's preliminary understanding of the **potential** for impacts on the Métis Nation of Ontario, due to the Northern Road Link Project (the Project). The Agency is seeking to learn about direct impacts the Project could have on the exercise of the Métis Nation of Ontario's Aboriginal rights. There are prompting questions in this document, which the Agency hopes could guide your input to the Agency. The Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Project will identify the valued components that 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 are shared with the Agency throughout the impact assessment process, this document will be updated, and will inform the Proponent's studies and the impact assessment.

### **The Proposed Project**

*Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent) is proposing the construction and operation, including maintenance, of an all-season multi-use public highway approximately 117 km to 164 km in length. The highway would connect the proposed Webequie Supply Road to the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road. The highway would become part of a future all-season road network connecting mineral development activities in the Ring of Fire area to the provincial highway network system at or near Nakina, Ontario.*

### **Summary of Information Available to the Agency about:**

- a) the nature and extent of the Métis Nation of Ontario's Aboriginal rights;**
  - b) potential for impacts from the Project on the exercise of the Métis Nation of Ontario's Aboriginal rights; and**
  - c) potential changes to health, social, or economic conditions of the Métis Nation of Ontario due to the Project.**
- a) Summary of the information available to the Agency related to the nature and extent of the Métis Nation of Ontario's Aboriginal rights:
- Members of the Métis Nation of Ontario have Aboriginal rights that are recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
  - Métis Nation of Ontario's Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territories are approximately 175 km south of the Project.
  - The Agency has been informed that there will be no impacts to the section 35 Aboriginal rights of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

- b) Summary of the information available to the Agency on the potential for 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**

**Seeking to Learn More**

If there are any cultural sites of importance that could be impacted, the Agency requests that you kindly share as much detail about these sites, including their approximate locations, to assist the Agency with understanding the potential for impacts on the Métis Nation of Ontario. These sites can be identified using buffers to protect Indigenous Knowledge.

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If there are specific cultural practices near the Project that would be impacted, the Agency is interested to learn more. For example, if there are areas near the Project that are used to pass on teachings to youth or are used for ceremonies, the Agency would be able to understand more clearly the potential impacts to your community.

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

**Seeking to Learn More**

If there are specific harvesting sites used by Métis citizens that potentially could be impacted by the Project (including by increased access), the Agency would like more information about the locations of these sites.

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The Agency would like to know of wildlife species important to the Métis Nation of Ontario.

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

- Potential impacts to sites of archeological importance.
  - For example, the Métis Nation of Ontario has stated that due to the historical fur trade in Northern Ontario, there is a potential for there to be a Métis archeological presence in the project area.

**Seeking to Learn More**

In addition to the Hudson Bay Company fur trading post near Maren Falls, the Agency kindly requests that the Métis Nation of Ontario shares any other areas on a map that contain important historical structures or symbols, or potential archeological sites, of which the Proponent should be made aware to minimize potential impacts. These areas can be identified using buffers to protect Indigenous Knowledge.

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- 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 changes to health, social or economic conditions**

**Seeking to Learn More**

If the Métis Nation of Ontario is aware of potential changes to health, social, or economic conditions of your community, the Agency would be interested to learn more about these concerns.

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**FOR ACTION:** The Agency is seeking by **July 21, 2023**, your validation of the information set out above and any additional information about impacts the Project may have on the Métis Nation of Ontario. Additional detail about the nature and extent of potential impacts to the Métis Nation of Ontario or the exercise of rights by 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. Please provide your comments to the Agency by either using the **Submit a comment** button on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site<sup>1</sup> or sending an email to *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

In addition, the Agency would like to meet with your community to discuss the information set out above to understand better, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>