



Video 1: Background and Overview

Marten Falls First Nation is a remote Anishinabeg community located in northern Ontario, approximately 430 kilometres from Thunder Bay at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki rivers. The community has a winter access road, but it is not reliable so an all-season Community Access Road that will connect Marten Falls First Nation to Ontario's provincial highway network is proposed, building on decades of earlier planning work.

A reliable Community Access Road is expected to improve travel safety and reduce transportation costs for goods and services, resulting in more affordable food, fuel and other essential supplies and services. A Community Access Road is likely to enhance access to emergency, health and social services, and provide economic opportunities in the region, which may include jobs during construction. Opportunities for social interaction with other communities and for families within the community is also expected to improve.

Planning for the Community Access Road is community-led, meaning that the Marten Falls First Nation community membership is involved in the development of solutions and decisions about the Community Access Road. Marten Falls First Nation provides guidance, direction and input through Chief and Council and Community Member Advisors on the Project Team. Through consultation with the community and representation on the Project Team, the entire community can be part of every step in the process. Marten Falls First Nation Anishinabeg regard the land and its resources as a gift from the Creator to use, and believe they have been bestowed the role as stewards of the land. Marten Falls First Nation people wish to see the lands, waters and resources continue to yield its resources for the "seven generations" to come. The traditional pursuits of hunting and fishing promised in the Treaty are to continue, but along with the use of other resources; allowing the community more flexibility in how they choose to make a living.

The proposed Community Access Road includes construction, operation and maintenance of a two-lane gravel road, stretching approximately 190 to 230 kilometres, with a planned speed limit of 80 kilometres an hour. Bridges for river and stream crossings will be built. The Proposed Terms of Reference identifies alternative routes and a river crossing option for consideration in the environmental assessment process. Modifications to the alternative routes and alternate crossing option that will be evaluated may occur as more information becomes available from the Indigenous Knowledge program, field studies, consultation and engineering work.

The Community Access Road requires both a provincial Environmental Assessment and a federal Impact Assessment. These processes will be coordinated to determine the preferred route and identify how the Community Access Road may affect the social, cultural, economic, built and natural environments. This





MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION **ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD**

assessment will also carefully address and protect traditions, Indigenous Knowledge and land use. Indigenous Knowledge is welcomed and encouraged throughout the environmental assessment process. Throughout the process, a combination of Indigenous Knowledge and Western scientific studies will help to enable a much deeper level of analysis and thoughtful decision making.

The Terms of Reference is the first step in the provincial environmental assessment process and is the roadmap for planning and decision-making. It outlines how the environmental assessment will be prepared, including what studies will be conducted, the process to identify and assess effects of the proposed road and how people will be consulted.

Twenty-three Indigenous communities are being consulted, along with government agencies and interested persons.

Marten Falls First Nation is embarking on a journey where they look forward to a brighter future because of access to the provincial highway system. This is a future where Marten Falls First Nation members and youth can begin to feel they have a rightful place in this resource rich country we call Canada.

Projects of this size with the potential to affect the environment, achieve true success through inclusive planning. Your feedback is important so it can inform the location and design of the Community Access Road. This includes how to best avoid and minimize effects. We want to hear from you at every step of the way.

For more information, visit our website at www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca or call us at 1-800-764-9114.

