

Marten Falls First Nation

# **Consultation and Engagement Plan to support the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement**

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Appendix A. Project-specific Environmental Assessment Government Review Team List

## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

EA .....	Environmental Assessment
EAA .....	<i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>
ENDM.....	Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
GBA+ .....	Gender-Based Analysis Plus
IA.....	Impact Assessment
IS.....	Impact Statement
MECP.....	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
MFFN .....	Marten Falls First Nation
MOU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
PIC .....	Public Information Centre
RoC .....	Record of Consultation
The Agency.....	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
ToR .....	Terms of Reference

# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Background and Project Overview

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) is a remote First Nation community in northern Ontario, located at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki rivers (**Figure 1-1**). MFFN is currently accessible year-round by air transportation out of Thunder Bay and Nakina, and by a winter access road constructed on an annual basis if conditions permit. Neither mode of transportation to the MFFN community is ideal. MFFN's winter access road is not reliable and is typically only useable about six to eight weeks annually between February and March, making transportation of goods and people difficult. The alternative means of transportation (i.e., air) is expensive for MFFN community members. Given the unreliability of the winter road and the expense of air travel, an all-season access road connecting MFFN to the existing provincial highway network is needed to improve the well-being of the MFFN community. The Community Access Road will serve MFFN community access and industrial supply needs for both the MFFN community (e.g., fuel, construction supplies, water treatment supplies) and industrial proponents (e.g., mining, forestry). The Project, therefore, will be for a multi-purpose road built to meet industrial use specifications. MFFN has started a provincial Environmental Assessment (EA), a federal Impact Assessment (IA) and a Preliminary Design Study to assess the potential effects and benefits related to the proposed Community Access Road.

Since the 1990s, MFFN has received provincial funding to maintain 140 kilometres of winter road to the MFFN community. In addition, MFFN has received provincial funding since 2014 to maintain 79 kilometres of the Anaconda and Painter Lake Road systems which connect the winter road to the provincial highway system.

In 2009, MFFN was successful in acquiring funds from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation to complete the 2011 MFFN Winter Road Realignment / All Weather Road Project, Feasibility Analysis and Business Plan Report (W. L. Lees & Associates and Marten Falls Logistics-LP. 2011, MFFN 2017). This report built on previous studies and was used by MFFN to guide discussions with government, industry and adjacent Indigenous communities on improving community access to MFFN. In 2016, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (now the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines [ENDM] ) confirmed financial support on permitting the Project (MFFN 2017) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (now Indigenous Services Canada, and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada) provided financial support under the Building Canada Fund for work related to realignment of the winter road to higher ground.

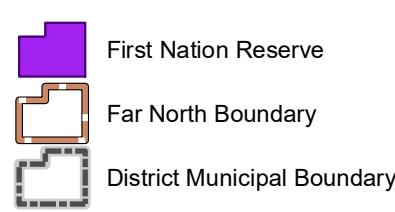
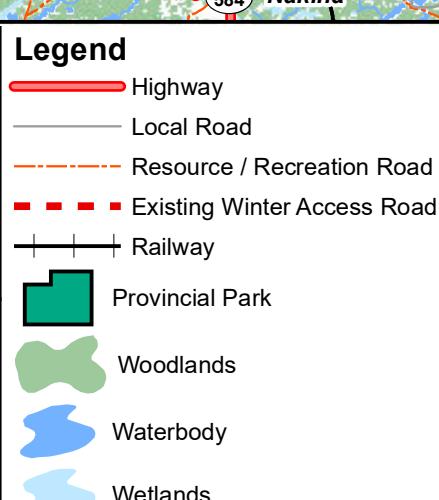
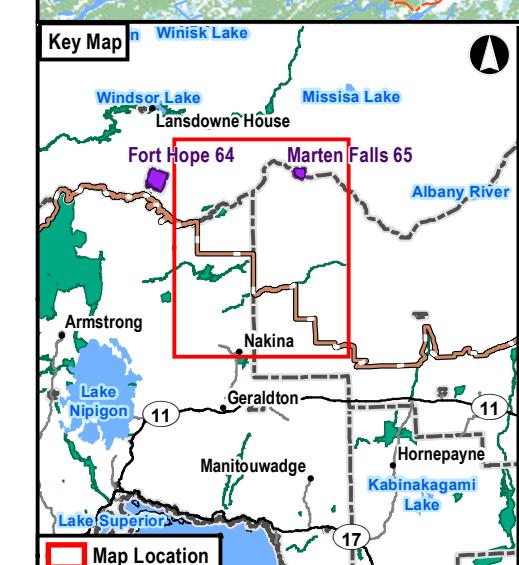
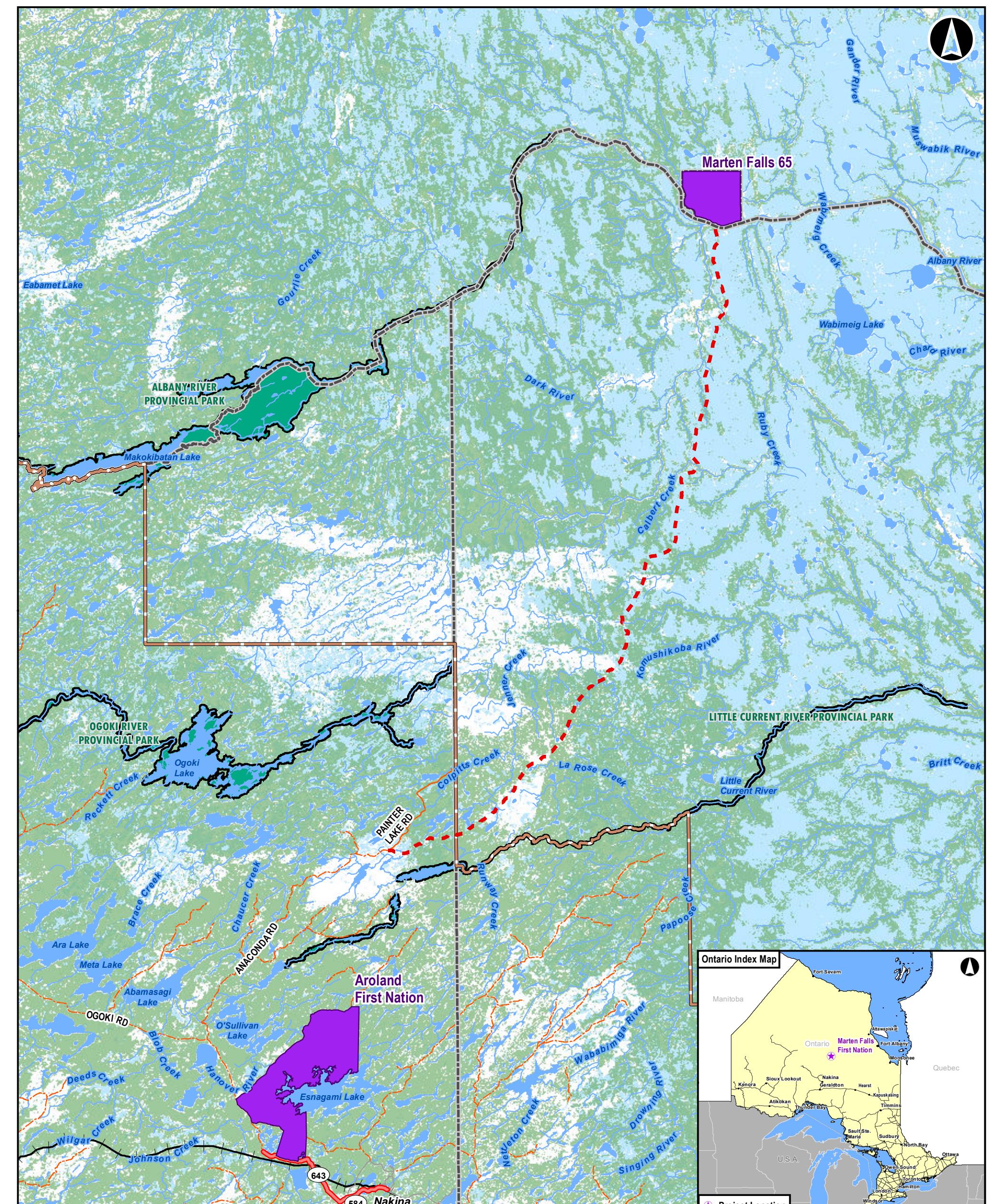
## 1.2 Regulatory Context

In April 2018, MFFN signed a voluntary agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to prepare a provincial Individual EA, and in November 2019 the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) confirmed that a federal IA would be required for the Project. As part of the provincial EA process, the Proponent is required to submit an EA report to the MECP for review and a decision. As part of the federal IA process, the Proponent is required to submit to the Agency an Impact Statement (IS), for the Agency to determine whether it satisfactorily contains all the information and studies outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The Project is undertaking a coordinated provincial and federal assessment resulting in one body of Proponent documentation related to the assessment, referred to as the EA / IS. The EA / IS will be submitted to both MECP and the Agency. MFFN's current understanding of the coordinated assessment process is based upon the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada – Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Cooperation Plan for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project Impact Assessment (IAAC 2020a)<sup>1</sup>. To support the coordinated assessment, MFFN has prepared one Consultation and Engagement Plan to meet the requirements of the EA / IA processes.

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1. Refer to Section 3.3. of the ToR for further details on the coordinated process.





**Marten Falls First Nation  
All Season Community Access Road**

**Project Location**

0 5 10 20 30  
Kilometres  
Datum: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N

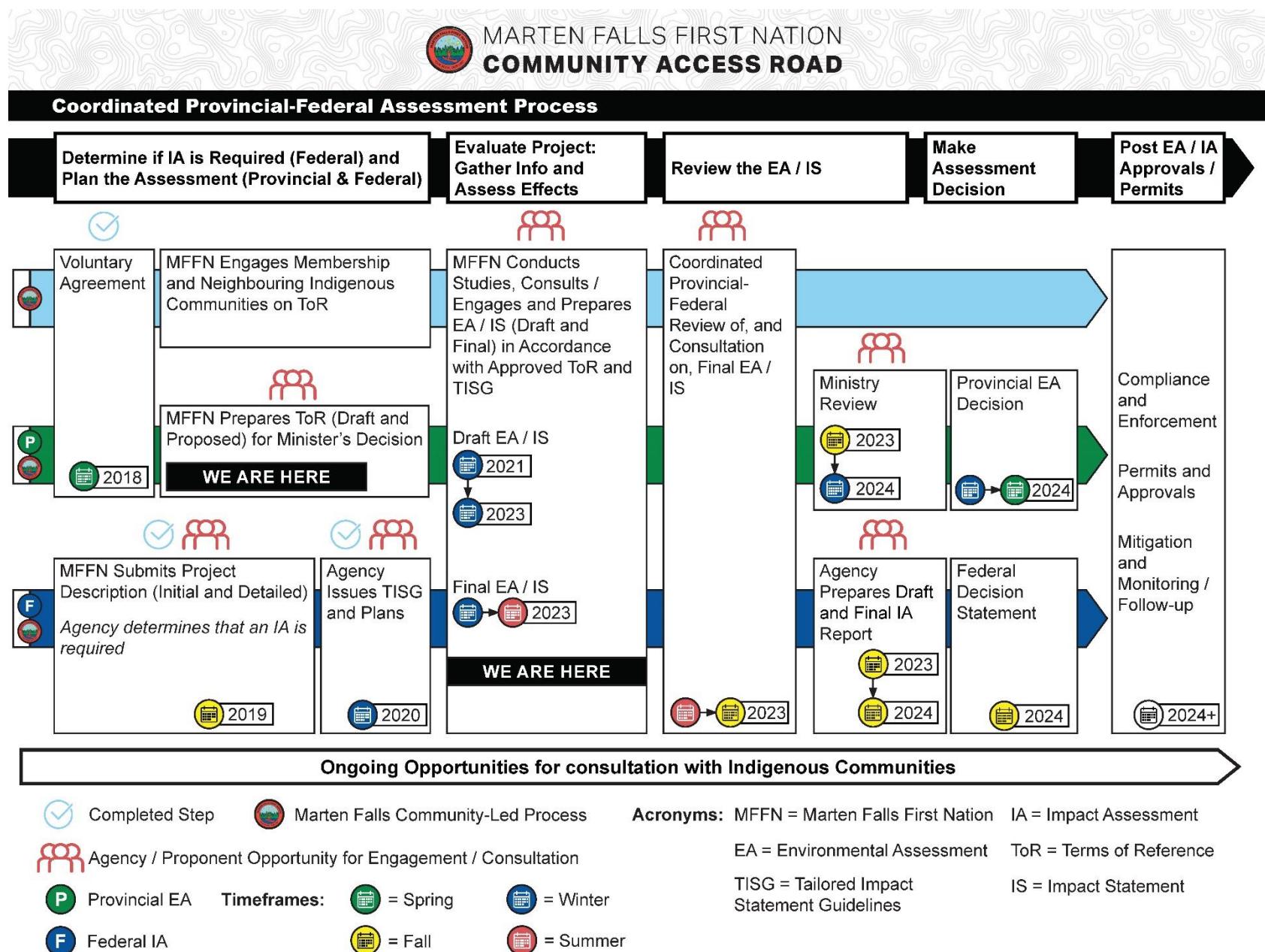
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P#60593122	Rev:00	

**AECOM**

**Figure 1-1**

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**Figure 1-2: Coordinated Provincial-Federal Assessment Process**



### 1.2.1 Consultation and Engagement Terminology

The following consultation and engagement terminology was written and provided by the Agency and Ontario (MECP and ENDM):

In the provincial context, the terms consultation and engagement are used to describe activities with Indigenous communities and other interested persons<sup>2</sup> to fulfill the requirements of the provincial EA process. Consultation and engagement activities are described in the MECP's Codes of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP 2019a) and Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process (MECP 2014b), as well as the Marten Falls-Ontario (MECP & ENDM) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Shared Consultation Responsibilities developed for the provincial EA for the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road.

These activities have included, and will continue to include, relationship-building activities that extend beyond the statutory and procedural requirements of consultation. It is noted that consultation and engagement activities conducted within a provincial EA process may be relied on by Ontario towards fulfilling its constitutional Duty to Consult with Aboriginal peoples.

In the federal context, the term engagement is used to describe activities undertaken by the proponent with Indigenous communities and other interested persons to fulfill the requirements of the federal IA process. Federal requirements for engagement and associated activities by the proponent are outlined in the federal Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. In addition, Agency-led engagement activities are outlined in the Public Participation Plan.

The Agency does not delegate procedural aspects of consultation. In the federal context, the term consultation is used to describe activities undertaken by the Agency to fulfill its Duty to Consult. Consultation activities by the Agency are outlined in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan. The proponent may be invited to participate in these Agency-led activities.

## 1.3 About This Consultation and Engagement Plan

This Consultation and Engagement Plan was developed by the Proponent for consultation and engagement activities that are planned to be led by the Proponent during preparation of the EA / IS. The plan is referred to as a "Consultation Plan" to be consistent with provincial *Environmental Impact Assessment Act* terminology. The plan outlines activities that MFFN, as the Project proponent, will undertake to support the preparation of the EA / IS and includes information sharing, relationship building, engagement and consultation activities to be undertaken with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons.

While this Consultation Plan is focused on the consultation and engagement efforts of MFFN during preparation of the EA / IS, Ontario (MECP and ENDM) and the Agency may also undertake consultation and engagement activities while MFFN prepares the EA / IS to satisfy their own obligations. Input received from these government activities and provided to MFFN will be considered in the preparation of the EA / IS.

The Agency's expectation of MFFN for the completion of its IS, including requirements for Indigenous and public consultation and engagement activities are outlined in the Agency's Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. Engagement activities to be led by the Agency during the completion of the IA are outlined in the Agency's Project-specific Public Participation Plan (IAAC 2020b) and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IAAC 2020c).

2. Throughout the Consultation Plan, the phrase "interested persons" is used and defined as individuals and groups (e.g., associations, non-governmental organizations, industry and academia) who could have an interest in the Project, including but not limited to communities in the region, those with commercial interests (e.g., forestry, trappers, outfitters, other mineral tenure holders in the area) and recreational users or those with recreational interest (e.g., campers, hunters and environmental groups).s

respectively. The Agency expects MFFN to participate in Agency-led consultation and engagement activities. More information related to the both the provincial and federal assessment processes (i.e., EA and IA, respectively) is available in **Section 3** of the Terms of Reference (ToR).

The Agency IAAC and / or Ontario may be organizing their own consultation efforts that are not covered in this Plan. Input received from these government efforts and provided to MFFN will be considered in development of the EA / IS. Regarding the federal IA process, once the IS is submitted to the Agency, consultation and engagement will be led by the Agency to support completion of the IA process.

This Consultation Plan:

- Guides the collection of input / feedback from Indigenous communities and interested persons (i.e., any person or body that has an interest in the Project) to help inform the preparation of the EA / IS;
- Outlines the methods that will be used to consult and engage during preparation of the EA / IS;
- Identifies key milestones when consultation and engagement will occur, timing and targeted input;
- Provides an issue resolution process;
- Provides information about how correspondence and input will be recorded and tracked; and
- Provides details on assessing the effectiveness of consultation and engagement efforts.

This Consultation Plan may be revised based on input received on the Proposed ToR and future consultation and engagement during the preparation of the EA / IS, including input from Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons.

The Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road Supporting Document – Proposed Terms of Reference Record of Consultation (AECOM 2020) has been prepared to document consultation and engagement activities during preparation of the Proposed ToR. A similar Record of Consultation (RoC) will be prepared to document the results of consultation and engagement undertaken during the EA / IA processes. Feedback from Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons gathered will be considered throughout the processes and tracked in the RoC. In addition, instances where Indigenous Knowledge sharing has taken place (e.g., meetings, reports) will be recorded in the RoC, including where Indigenous Knowledge was incorporated into Project decisions and into the EA / IS (with direct reference to the appropriate section). Given the confidentiality required for Indigenous Knowledge sharing and use, the sharing and inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge will be guided by the community-specific Indigenous Sharing Agreements (i.e., specifics will not be included in public documentation but will be tracked separately in a confidential Project file).

Although not a requirement of the provincial EA process, in December 2019 MFFN voluntarily chose to circulate a Draft ToR (AECOM 2019) for review and comment by Indigenous communities and interested persons. The Draft ToR (AECOM 2019) was prepared in accordance with the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and the Code of Practice for Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (Code of Practice; MECP 2019a). A 63-day review period was provided (to February 7, 2020) which included.) an 18-day extension, and several Indigenous communities responded with their feedback on the Draft ToR (AECOM 2019). Feedback has been incorporated into the ToR, including this Consultation Plan, and will be submitted to the Minister of MECP for review and a decision. Furthermore, this Consultation Plan was informed by the Agency's Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IAAC 2020b) and Public Participation Plan (IAAC 2020c) that was issued with the Agency's Tailored Impact Assessment Guidelines (IAAC 2020d) for this Project.

The Consultation Plan has been prepared using provincial terminology, however, the respective federal terminology has been provided in **Table 1-1** for reference. The terms can be used interchangeably.

**Table 1-1: Provincial and Federal Terminology Comparison**

Provincial Term	Federal Term
Criteria	Valued Component
Impact Management Measures	Mitigation
Net effects	Residual effects
Record of Consultation	Record of Engagement

## 1.4 The Proponent

The Proponent of the proposed Project is MFFN, a remote Indigenous community in northern Ontario located at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki rivers, approximately 430 kilometres from Thunder Bay, Ontario. MFFN will design and permit the proposed Community Access Road, while options for road ownership, maintenance activities and liability are being considered in discussion with the Province.

### 1.4.1 Community-Led Process

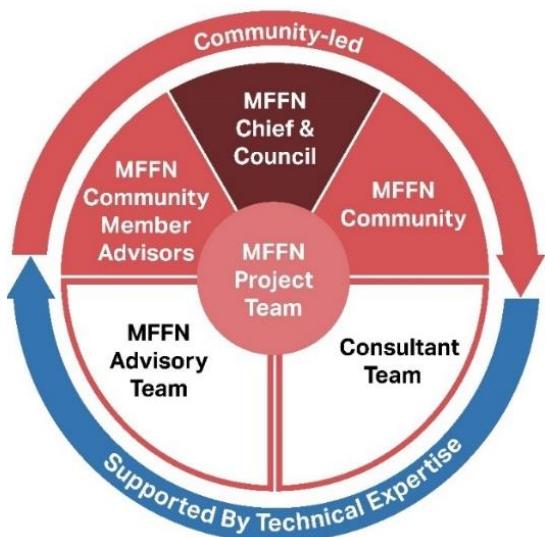
The Project is community-led; meaning MFFN community membership will help develop solutions and advance decisions on the Community Access Road. MFFN, as the Proponent of the Project, has formed a Project Team that includes MFFN community members. The MFFN Project Team acts with guidance, direction and input from MFFN Chief and Council, MFFN Community Member Advisers and MFFN community membership to:

- Manage the Project to meet the requirements of the EA / IA processes;
- Keep MFFN community membership, as the Proponent, up-to-date of plans and progress, and to gather direction and input to enable decisions by MFFN Chief and Council related to the Community Access Road; and
- Consult and engage members of MFFN and neighbouring Indigenous communities; see **Table 3-1** for a full list of communities to be engaged.

#### Neighbouring Indigenous Communities:

The MECP and the Agency identified the Aboriginal Rights-Based and Interest-Based communities who may be interested in the MFFN Community Access Road and should be consulted as part of the EA / IA processes. The term 'neighbouring' is used to identify any Indigenous community being engaged with respect to the Project and is not in reference to proximity.

**Figure 1-3: Community-led Process**



MFFN community membership have two distinct roles: 1) involvement in the community-led process as Proponent of the Project; and 2) an Indigenous community potentially affected by the Project. Although not every MFFN community member is part of the MFFN Project Team, input from community members—in addition to direction from Chief and Council and Community Member Advisors—helps guide the Project. Proponent consultation and engagement activities used to gather this input and direction during the EA / IS processes are included in **Table 4-2**.

**Figure 1-3** depicts the structure of the community-led process established to guide the Project through the EA / IS.

## 1.5 Importance of Consultation

Consultation and engagement are significant components of any project and are a means to gather input to inform the decision-making process, including for this Project preparation of the EA / IS. The most meaningful consultation and engagement occurs when individuals have input on how they want to be consulted and engaged, and this Consultation Plan provides the framework to create unique and flexible approaches and activities that can be tailored to the needs of neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons.

This Consultation Plan has been designed to meet consultation requirements outlined in section 5.1 of the EAA, the Code of Practice for Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process (MECP 2014a) and Code of Practice on Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP 2014b). It is also designed to meet the Agency's requirements as outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (IAAC 2020d) issued for this Project. The Draft Guidelines for Consultation with Indigenous Peoples related to Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights (Government of Ontario 2019) and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Handbook on Consultation in Natural Resource Development (Nishnawbe Aski Nation 2007) were also used for guidance where appropriate. The following sections on the Agency's website (IAAC 2020e; <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act.html>) will continue to provide guidance during the federal IA process: Indigenous Participation in Impact Assessment, Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act: Procedures for Working with Indigenous Communities and Public Participation in Impact Assessments.

Input received to date from Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons has helped shape the planned approach to consultation and engagement proposed during the EA / IA processes. The approach described in this document will evolve as time progresses. A previous version of this Consultation Plan was included in the Draft ToR (AECOM 2019) and Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons were encouraged to provide feedback so that the Consultation Plan could evolve for inclusion in the ToR. Comments and responses on the draft version of this Consultation Plan are available in Appendix E of the RoC. This Consultation Plan, distributed with the ToR, will also be revisited regularly and updated accordingly.

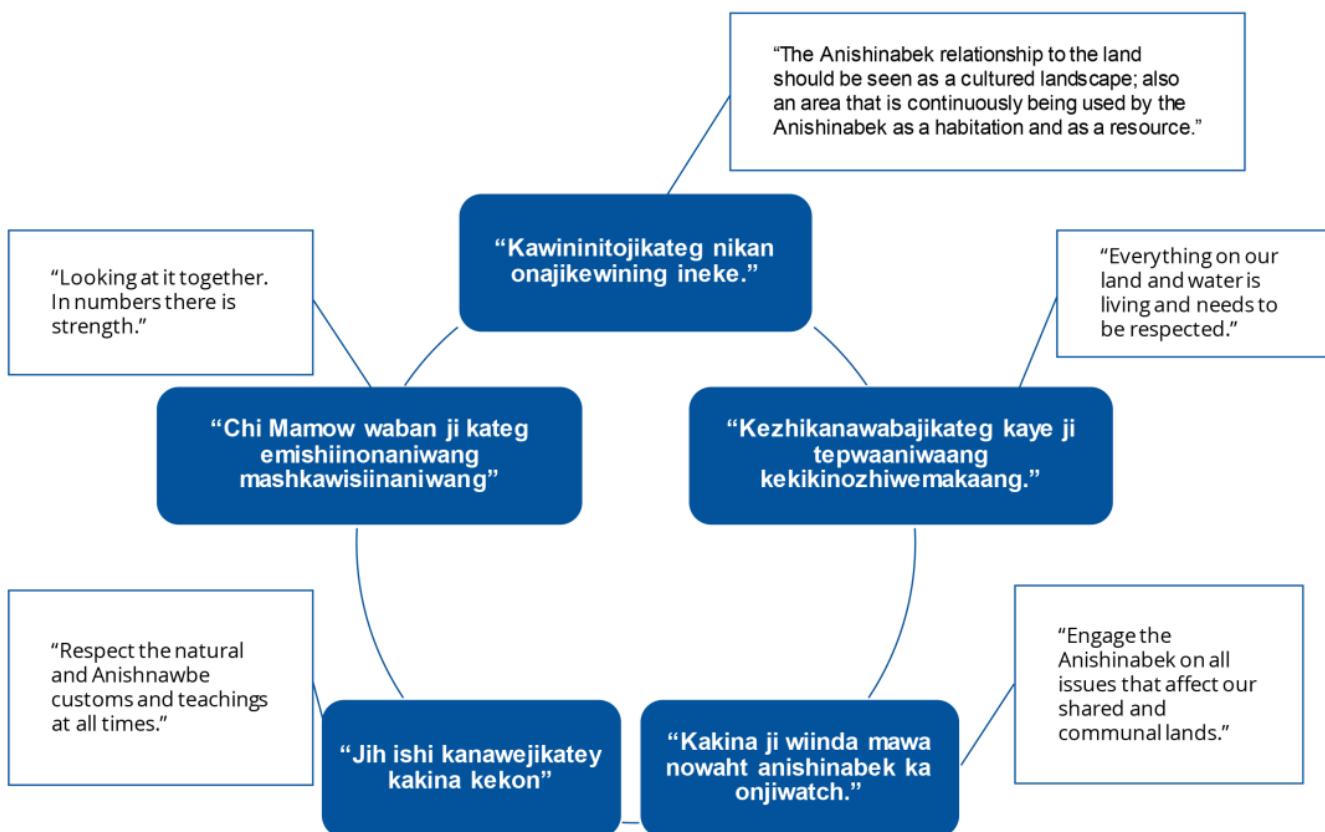
## 2. Principles and Approach

### 2.1 Principles of Consultation

A primary objective of the EA / IA processes is to effectively communicate information about the proposed Community Access Road, and provide opportunities for neighbouring Indigenous communities and interested persons to provide input and inform the effects assessment, impact management measure and follow-up as required by the federal IAA and provincial EAA. MFFN is committed to creating and sustaining constructive dialogue and relationships with neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons, to support the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the proposed Community Access Road.

To honour the traditional lands that the MFFN Community Access Road is proposed to be developed on and to respect MFFN traditional teachings<sup>3</sup>, the Guiding Principles presented in **Figure 2-1**, and endorsed by the MFFN Chief and Council, will be followed throughout all Project-related consultation and engagement activities and the EA / IA processes; from preparation of the ToR to preparation of the EA / IS.

**Figure 2-1: Guiding Principles**



3. *Guiding Principles of the Marten Falls First Nation Community Based Land Use Planning Team for Project Planning and Engagement.*

The Guiding Principles will be put into action by providing meaningful opportunities for input throughout the EA / IA processes, and by:

- Ensuring early and ongoing communication and dialogue throughout the EA / IA processes with Indigenous communities, government agencies, and interested persons;
- Working with neighbouring Indigenous communities to confirm existence of, align with and respect protocols and policies for Anishinabek Knowledge<sup>4</sup> and Indigenous Knowledge and / or leading collection of Indigenous Knowledge;
- Customizing Consultation Plans to meet neighbouring Indigenous community needs;
- Delivering Project-related information in a timely and culturally sensitive manner, using plain language, translations (i.e., Oji-Cree and other traditional languages as needed) and visual aids to enable understanding;
- Facilitating multiple and ongoing opportunities for dialogue and conversations, and encouraging participation of relevant subgroups self-identified by those being engaged or consulted with (e.g., women, youth, elders);
- Providing sensitivity to cultural practices, events and activities of neighbouring Indigenous communities and considering these when planning and scheduling events;
- Facilitating an understanding of both the Indigenous Knowledge and western science and engineering principles that form the basis of the EA / IA processes;
- Providing interested persons and potentially affected Indigenous communities listed in **Table 3-1**, ongoing opportunities to share their concerns, questions and opinions on potential effects of the Project, their knowledge of the local environment, input on the effects assessment and its conclusions, the development of impact management measure follow-up and management strategies; and
- Demonstrating how feedback was considered and / or incorporated into decision making, including providing direction as to where feedback is included in the EA / IS.

## 2.2 Nishnawbe Aski Nation Consultation Policy

In addition to the Guiding Principles, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Consultation Policy, as outlined in A Handbook on Consultation in Natural Resource Development (2007), will be used to guide consultation and engagement efforts. This document includes a plan for meaningful consultation between a proponent (MFFN), Indigenous communities and government, particularly on projects or decisions that have a potential to impact Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

The key elements for meaningful consultation referenced in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Consultation Policy include:

- A continuous process;
- Exchanging information;
- Building relationships;
- Getting feedback on the understanding and adequacy of information, and exchanging more information if required;

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4. The term *Anishinabek Knowledge* is used to describe Indigenous Knowledge associated specifically with Anishinabek communities including MFFN, while the term *Indigenous Knowledge* is used when referring to knowledge from Indigenous communities that may include non-Anishinabek communities. For the purpose of this plan, *Indigenous Knowledge* is used throughout.

- Identifying issues;
- Accommodation and reconciliation;
- Fairness; and
- Negotiating with the right attitude.

Consultation protocols of individual communities (should they be available) will also be respected. At this stage in the ToR, Aroland First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation have provided their community consultation and engagement protocols to the MFFN Project Team.

## **2.3 Duty to Consult**

Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples<sup>5</sup> in Canada are recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The MECP (in a letter dated December 19, 2018) identified 22 neighbouring Indigenous communities to be consulted and engaged on the basis that they have or may have constitutionally protected Aboriginal or Treaty Rights that may be impacted by the proposed Project, or that they may be interested in the Project. The Agency, in their 'Preliminary List of Indigenous Communities for Proponent Engagement on the Marten Falls Access Road', also identified neighbouring Indigenous communities to be consulted; their list of 15 communities included all communities identified by the MECP plus one additional community, Mishkeegogamang First Nation. Although Mishkeegogamang First Nation has not yet expressed interest in the Project, they are being provided information in conjunction with neighbouring Indigenous communities who might be impacted by or have an interest in the proposed Project. See **Section 3.1** for a list of communities that are to be consulted and engaged with.

Ontario (MECP and ENDM) has delegated some procedural aspects of Ontario's Duty to Consult to MFFN (the Proponent) and has developed a Marten Falls-Ontario MOU on Shared Consultation Responsibilities to set out how the responsibilities will be shared through the EA process. The Marten Falls-Ontario MOU on Shared Consultation Responsibilities (available in Appendix D in the ToR) was signed on January 7, 2020 and defines the roles and responsibilities of both parties regarding the consultation and engagement of neighbouring Indigenous communities whose Aboriginal or Treaty Rights may be adversely affected by the proposed Project and interested persons.

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5. The term, *Aboriginal*, is used rather than *Indigenous* to reflect the definitions provided in the *Constitution Act, 1982* and specifically s.35 (2), including *Indian*, *Inuit* and *Métis* people in Canada.

### 3. Neighbouring Indigenous Communities, Government Agencies and Interested Persons

#### 3.1 Identification of Neighbouring Indigenous Communities

The Project is located within James Bay Treaty—Treaty No. 9 (made in 1905 and 1930) and adhesions made in 1929 and 1930 area.

Aligning with its Guiding Principles and to help guide the Project, MFFN initiated early and ongoing communication and dialogue with neighbouring Indigenous communities prior to the commencement of the EA. In December 2018, MFFN extended those consultation and engagement efforts and is currently engaging with neighbouring Indigenous communities identified to-date by the MECP and the Agency; MFFN will continue to do so throughout the EA / IA processes at the level of interest expressed by each community. MFFN will also work with interested communities considered directly impacted by the Project to collect Indigenous Knowledge, regarding traditional land and resource use and cultural practices, for incorporating into the EA / IS. The EA / IS will also include land use information (where applicable) shared by Indigenous communities including land use information documented in a Community Based Land Use Plan, and / or other community-specific land use planning initiatives.

Listed below in **Table 3-1** are, according to the MECP (in a letter dated December 2018), the neighbouring Indigenous communities who should be consulted on the basis that they have (or may have) constitutionally protected Aboriginal or Treaty Rights that may be adversely affected by the Project, and / or who may be interested in the Project. MECP will notify MFFN if there are changes to the list of neighbouring Indigenous communities that should be consulted and engages with. Mishkeegogamang First Nation was added based on the Agency's 'Preliminary List of Indigenous Communities for Proponent Engagement on the Marten Falls Access Road'.

**Table 3-1: Identified Neighbouring Indigenous Communities, including their Provincial Territorial Organizations and / or Tribal Council Affiliations**

Tribal Council Affiliation	Indigenous Community or Organization	
<b>Matawa First Nations</b> (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Marten Falls First Nation</b> (Proponent and potentially affected Indigenous community)</li> <li>▪ Aroland First Nation</li> <li>▪ Constance Lake First Nation</li> <li>▪ Eabametoong First Nation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ginoogaming First Nation</li> <li>▪ Neskantaga First Nation</li> <li>▪ Nibinamik First Nation</li> <li>▪ Webequie First Nation</li> </ul>
<b>Matawa First Nation and the Union of Ontario Indians</b> (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Long Lake #58 First Nation**</li> </ul>	
<b>Mushkegowuk Council</b> (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attawapiskat First Nation</li> <li>▪ Fort Albany First Nation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kashechewan First Nation</li> </ul>
<b>Shibogama First Nations Council</b> (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kasabonika Lake First Nation</li> <li>▪ Kingfisher Lake First Nation</li> <li>▪ Wapekeka First Nation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wawakapewin First Nation</li> <li>▪ Wunnumin Lake First Nation</li> </ul>
<b>Independent First Nations Alliance</b> (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inniniuwug First Nation</li> </ul>	
<b>Independent First Nations</b> (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mishkeegogamang First Nation</li> <li>▪ Weenusk First Nation</li> </ul>	
<b>Nokiiwin Tribal Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation (AZA)*</li> </ul>	
<b>Métis Nation of Ontario</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Métis Nation of Ontario; Region 2*</li> </ul>	
<b>Independent Métis Nation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Red Sky Independent Métis Nation*</li> </ul>	

Notes: \* Indigenous communities or organizations identified by MECP who should be consulted on the basis that they may be interested in the Community Access Road.

\*\* MECP indicated in a letter to MFFN that Long Lake #58 First Nation was moved from interest-based to rights-based.

Those Tribal Councils, Nations and Alliances listed above, as well as the Chiefs of Ontario and Union of Ontario Indians, have also been identified as potentially interested in the Project, and will be provided with information and the opportunity to meet throughout the EA / IA processes.

To help achieve an appropriate level of consultation and engagement related to the proposed all-season Community Access Road (i.e., frequency and depth of consultation and engagement), the list of identified neighbouring Indigenous communities was considered against the following:

- Expressed interest (to-date) in the proposed MFFN Community Access Road, including applying to Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Agency for capacity funding;
- Aboriginal or Treaty Rights, including any rights that neighbouring Indigenous communities themselves have identified, may be adversely affected by the Project;
- Geographical distance or proximity to the study area;
- Situated downstream of the Project and with a potential to experience effects to water courses as a result of the Project;
- Traditional and / or current land use within the study area or of lands potentially affected by the Project;
- Potential for effects on the environmental, health and social and economic conditions of neighbouring Indigenous communities; and,
- Provided comments on the EA / IA processes.

The neighbouring Indigenous communities, therefore, expected to have the highest level of interest in the Community Access Road related to its development follow; it is expected that these communities will request the most frequent and deepest level of consultation and engagement:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Aroland First Nation;</li><li>■ Attawapiskat First Nation;</li><li>■ Constance Lake First Nation;</li><li>■ Eabametoong First Nation;</li><li>■ Fort Albany First Nation;</li><li>■ Ginoogaming First Nation; and</li><li>■ Kasabonika Lake First Nation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Kashechewan First Nation;</li><li>■ Long Lake #58 First Nation;</li><li>■ Marten Falls First Nation;</li><li>■ Neskantaga First Nation;</li><li>■ Nibinamik First Nation; and</li><li>■ Webequie First Nation.</li></ul> |
|--|--|

The above list of communities expected to have a heightened interest in the Project is preliminary, and it is expected that the list will evolve as new information becomes available and more neighbouring Indigenous communities engage in the consultation and engagement opportunities provided.

In addition to receiving all statutory notices and being provided with comprehensive information related to the Project throughout the EA / IA processes and the full opportunity to review and comment on key EA / IS documents, these communities will also be encouraged to meet (in-person, by phone or online), more often and as needed, to discuss the Project and gather feedback from the community (see **Table 4.2** for a list of the input that will be sought). As it is understood that the level of a community's interest may change as the EA / IA processes progress and new information becomes available, this list will be reconsidered regularly. Both verbal and written confirmation of interest from a community is acceptable to demonstrate interest in the Project.

The remaining neighbouring Indigenous communities (of the list of 23 communities identified by the MECP and the Agency) will be consulted and engaged similarly in that they will receive all statutory notices, and will be provided with comprehensive information related to the Project throughout the EA / IA processes and the full opportunity to review and comment on key EA / IS documents. These communities will also be offered in-person consultation and engagement; however, it is anticipated that these will be requested less frequently than with the initial list of 13 neighbouring Indigenous communities identified as expected to have the highest level of interest above.

## 3.2 Crown Government Agencies

### 3.2.1 Provincial and Federal Agencies

The MFFN Project Team has discussed the Project with provincial and federal government agencies during conference calls and meetings on various aspects of the EA / IA processes, including timing for reviews of the ToR and Project Description, data availability, alternatives selection process and consultation and engagement activities (particularly as they relate to Indigenous communities).

For EAs, the MECP provides an EA Government Review Team Master Distribution List (MECP 2019b). This list was reviewed to identify the provincial and federal agencies who may have an interest in the Project, which has been included in **Appendix A** for reference. Where there was any uncertainty regarding applicability of an agency to the Project, the agency was included in the Project Contact List unless the agency indicated they would like to be removed.

It is anticipated that the EA Government Review Team will provide information and guidance for MFFN to consider in preparation of the EA / IS and will contribute to the review of EA / IS documentation by providing comments from their mandated areas of responsibility. Considering the Project components and the potential environmental effects, provincial and federal agencies are expected to participate in the EA / IA processes to varying levels.

The MFFN Project Team has bi-weekly interagency teleconferences with an EA Coordination Team that includes provincial agencies (MECP, ENDM, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Transportation) and the Agency. It is expected that the MFFN Project Team will continue to provide updates, exchange information, consider opportunities and concerns, and discuss opportunities to progress and improve the EA / IA coordinated process with the EA Co-ordination Team throughout the EA / IA processes. These meetings will take place as bi-weekly interagency teleconferences.

### 3.2.2 Municipalities

The City of Thunder Bay, the Municipality of Greenstone and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout will be consulted and engaged on the Project during the EA / IA processes.

## 3.3 Interested Persons

An initial list of interested persons was developed based on discussions and Project development prior to the initiation of the EA / IA processes, and during preparation of the ToR and Project Description. Interested persons are individuals and groups (e.g., associations, non-governmental organizations, industry and academia) who could have an interest in the Project, including but not limited to communities in the region, those with commercial interests (e.g., forestry, trappers, outfitters, other mineral tenure holders in the area) and recreational users or those with recreational interest (e.g., campers, hunters and environmental groups). Many of the interested persons within the area meet frequently (monthly) as part of the Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee; this group has been and will continued to be consulted and engaged throughout the EA / IA processes.

Additionally, MFFN will consult and engage with, at a minimum, the members of the public listed in the Agency's Public Participation Plan (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80184>). The stakeholders identified are all currently on the Project Contact List except for one, and that organization will be added. These members of the public will be consulted and engaged by MFFN throughout the EA / IA processes.

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## 4. Consultation and Engagement Activities During Preparation of the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement

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MFFN's primary objective is to effectively communicate information about the proposed Community Access Road, and to consult with or engage those who may be potentially affected by, or have an interest in, the Project or the lands potentially affected by the Project. MFFN is committed to creating and sustaining constructive dialogue and relationships with Indigenous communities, government agencies, and interested persons, to support the environmental, social, and economic sustainability of the Project.

Communication, consultation and engagement will be planned and executed to align with the Guiding Principles and key elements introduced in **Section 2.1**, and to provide MFFN community members, neighbouring Indigenous communities and interested persons with opportunities to learn about and understand the proposed Community Access Road, and provide input to help identify potential effects and impact management measures (see **Table 4.2** for a list of topics neighbouring Indigenous communities will be consulted on).

Consultation and engagement efforts undertaken during the provincial ToR and federal planning phase will continue through the EA / IA processes. Any feedback received during from these efforts related to the consultation and engagement approach, activities, milestones and scheduling will also be taken into consideration during the EA / IA processes.

The following milestones throughout the EA / IA processes, described in further detail in **Section 4.1.6**, will help guide efforts to consult and engage Indigenous communities government agencies and interested persons:

- Notice of Commencement for Provincial EA;
- Effects Assessment Methods;
- Identification of Preferred Alternatives;
- Review of Draft EA / IS; and
- Review of Final EA / IS.

### 4.1 Activities

#### 4.1.1 Indigenous Communities

Participation of neighbouring Indigenous communities during preparation of the EA / IS is intended for MFFN to identify, consider and respond to potential concerns and issues of interested and potentially affected Indigenous communities, including its own community membership, and to share information with those communities and receive their input into the EA / IA processes. It is MFFN's intent throughout preparation of the EA / IS to engage and consult neighbouring Indigenous communities and organizations at a level that considers interest and potential effects related to the proposed access road (see **Section 3.1**). We recognize that the level of consultation and engagement desired by each community will vary and could evolve through ongoing discussions and are accepting of these changes.

Underpinning each planned consultation and engagement activity related to all milestones is a commitment to work towards providing technical information that is easy to understand, encourages feedback and inputs and is provided in a timely manner that allows for sufficient review time. The MFFN Project Team commits to following up with

communities to confirm they received and understand the information provided, confirm that their feedback has been interpreted appropriately and to demonstrate how feedback has been considered and may inform the EA / IS.

It is not the MFFN Project Team's intent to dictate the form of consultation and engagement to be offered to each community, although effort has been made to predict the appropriate level of consultation and engagement using established criteria (see **Section 3.1**). The activities outlined in this Consultation Plan will be used as the foundation for consultation and engagement with neighbouring Indigenous communities. Once discussions are held with each interested community, more focused consultation and engagement efforts will be developed and uniquely applied as needed and will align with the community's own consultation and engagement process and documents.

In the consultation and engagement of interested communities, the following factors have been and will continue to be considered throughout the Project:

■ **The Land:**

Where possible, meetings, activities and workshops will be hosted in the community, providing women, elders, youth, other community members and land users the opportunity to be in-place when discussing the Project and reflecting on Indigenous Knowledge.

■ **Translation:**

Notices, meetings, information panels, newsletters, radio ads and other materials including plain language documents may be translated into traditional languages such as Oji-Cree and possibly others (as requested / required) to show respect to the people of the territory. MFFN will work with Indigenous communities to identify community members to fulfil the role of a live translator for meetings, if appropriate.

■ **Country Foods:**

Where possible, local caterers will be hired in the communities and we support the use of country foods for community meals.

■ **Cross-Cultural Orientation:**

If appropriate, MFFN will respectfully ask each neighbouring Indigenous community to provide the Project Team with a cultural and community orientation. This orientation will help the MFFN Project Team consider cultural practices and customs while planning for consultation and engagement, and will provide an opportunity to develop a series of Guiding Principles on how to work together based on respect, trust and mutual-learning.

■ **Observe Hunting and Cultural Periods:**

MFFN will consult and engage with communities to find an appropriate timeframe for scheduling consultation and engagement events to help avoid conflicting schedules with traditional cultural periods.

All MECP / the Agency identified communities will continue to receive Project notices including notices of public meetings, key website updates, and draft documentation releases. Plain language summaries and updates will also be periodically prepared and distributed at key milestones during the EA / IA processes (e.g., identification of preferred alternatives). The information provided will clearly identify the MFFN contacts, should more information be desired and/ or to provide questions or concerns to.

A complete list of EA / IS consultation and engagement activities is outlined in **Section 4.1.5**, including those that could be undertaken with neighbouring Indigenous communities. Where possible, community-specific Consultation Plans will be developed and shared with Ontario (MECP and ENDM) as per the terms of the Marten Falls-Ontario MOU on Shared Consultation Responsibilities (see **Section 2.4**), and with the Agency if requested. Ontario (MECP and ENDM) will review and provide input to these community-specific Consultation Plans.

### A Note on In-person Meetings

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially classified the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic. As a result, physical / social distancing measures have been recommended across the world, and specifically, many of the Indigenous communities identified in this Consultation Plan have had to close and / or limit access in and out of the community to achieve the safety of their members. MFFN recognizes that this evolving situation may require changes to the proposed schedule and activities described in this Consultation Plan. As the situation evolves, the MFFN Project Team is monitoring public health recommendations and reassessing the consultation and engagement approach accordingly. MFFN will offer alternatives to face-to-face meetings, such as teleconferences (that do not require an internet connection) and on-line consultation and engagement opportunities, and work with the community's preference in how they would like to be consulted and engaged. Online consultation and engagement opportunities will be provided in consideration of a neighbouring Indigenous community's knowledge of and access to technology and any broadband limitations. Should they be requested and / or needed, the MFFN Project Team has the required skills and knowledge to leverage digital tools and platforms. The MFFN Project Team will work with neighbouring Indigenous communities to understand their capacity to participate in the Project, and the manner(s) in which they would like to be consulted and engaged.

#### **4.1.2 Indigenous Knowledge Program**

Indigenous Knowledge refers to Indigenous systems of knowledge as well as cultural practices related to the production of knowledge based on traditional belief systems, relationships to the environment, and community practices. It is the accumulated and living knowledge built upon the historic experiences of Peoples living on the land and adapting to social, economic, environmental, spiritual and political change (Chiefs of Ontario, n.d.). It includes knowledge about the natural environment (e.g., locations of caribou seasonal use and calving areas), the relationships between environmental changes and species or ecosystems, and how potential effects to the environment can be avoided or minimized. Indigenous land and resource use, sometimes referred to as Traditional Land Use, refers to areas and resources used for traditional purposes when Indigenous Peoples learn and practice their Indigenous Knowledge (Garvin et al. 2001).

For this Project, an Indigenous Knowledge Program has been developed which aims to solicit and collect relevant Indigenous Knowledge, information on Indigenous land and resource use, and information on Indigenous cultural sites, features and practices from interested Indigenous communities to inform the EA / IS and Project planning. For the purpose of the EA / IS, the Indigenous Knowledge Program refers to how Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use in the Study Area will be collected and incorporated into the EA / IS. The Indigenous Knowledge Program for the EA / IS will occur in two concurrent phases:

1. Collecting existing Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous land and resource use data (i.e., applicable Indigenous Knowledge and land and resource use information previously collected by communities for other purposes that they choose to share with MFFN); and
2. Completing Project-specific Indigenous Knowledge and Land and Resource Use studies.

While the Indigenous Knowledge Program is distinct from the Consultation Program, they are complementary and collectively serve to solicit Indigenous perspectives, values and inputs with the respect to Project planning and the EA / IS. A key differentiator is that sensitive and / or confidential information will be specifically collected through the Indigenous Knowledge Program and its use and publication will be governed by Indigenous community-specific Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements.

Details regarding the Indigenous Knowledge Program are outlined in **Section 3.4.2** of the Proposed ToR.

#### **4.1.3 Crown Government Agencies**

The provision of information to provincial and federal agencies and other public agencies will provide transparency and accountability throughout the duration of the Project. The EA Government Review Team and other agencies included on the Project Contact List will be engaged as appropriate throughout the development and review of the EA / IS. See **Table 4-1** for more information about consultation and engagement activities for Crown Government Agencies.

Finally, as previously noted in this Consultation Plan both Ontario (MECP and ENDM) and the Agency may be undertaking their own consultation and engagement activities with neighbouring Indigenous communities to fulfill their mandates. It is understood that relevant input received from these activities will be shared with MFFN for consideration in the EA / IS.

The MFFN Project Team will work with Ontario (MECP and ENDM) to coordinate consultation and engagement activities and identify appropriate times for Ontario participation in Proponent-led activities. More information on the roles and responsibilities can be found in the Marten Falls-Ontario MOU on Shared Consultation Responsibilities (Appendix D of the ToR).

#### **4.1.4 Interested Persons**

The Project Contact List developed during the ToR and federal IA Planning Phase will be expanded throughout the EA / IA processes, and will be used to inform interested persons about the EA / IA and consultation and engagement activities. As previously noted, MFFN will consult and engage with, at a minimum, the members of the public listed in the Agency's Public Participation Plan (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80184>). The Project Contact List will also expand as additional interested persons indicate interest for being added to the list. During the EA / IA processes, three Project Information Centres (PICs) are planned to be held in Thunder Bay; other locations including the Municipality of Greenstone (Geraldton), Longlac and Sioux Lookout will also be considered. The PICs will be advertised through newspaper ads, email invitations and social media. More details about when the PICs will take place are outlined in **Table 4-2**.

The alternatives for the Project fall within Cochrane District, which is a French designated area under the *French Language Services Act*. Therefore, if there are public meetings in the Municipality of Greenstone—also a French designated area under the *French Language Services Act*—bilingual Project Team member(s) can be available to provide French translation of materials.

In addition to the PICs, it is anticipated that meetings will be held with key stakeholder groups that would include but not be limited to: municipalities, Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee, forestry operators, outfitters, environmental organizations and mineral exploration and development members. These meetings will be held depending on the interest of these organizations.

See **Table 4-1** for more information about consultation and engagement activities.

#### **4.1.5 Summary of Consultation Activities**

A variety of communication, engagement and consultation tools will be used throughout the EA / IA processes to build positive, respectful relationships, share information with Indigenous communities, government agencies, and interested persons and obtain input on the Project. Input received through these activities, including how that input was considered, will be documented in the EA / IS.

The list of activities outlined in **Table 4-1** is a broad range of activities that will be considered; not all activities will necessarily be used through the EA / IA processes. Appropriate activities will be selected to best meet the objectives of the planned consultation and engagement, and through discussions with neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons. As part of the consultation and engagement, information will be provided for review, materials will be presented, and questions will be asked by the MFFN Project Team. As per the Marten Falls-Ontario MOU on Shared Consultation Responsibilities, Ontario (MECP and ENDM) will work to coordinate consultation and engagement activities and identify appropriate times for Ontario's participation in Proponent-led activities and may review EA consultation and engagement-related materials.

**Table 4-1: Consultation Activities**

Consultation Activity / Tool	
<b>Indigenous Communities</b>	
<b>Chief and Council and / or Community Meetings</b> (in-person, by phone or online), are expected with the most potentially interested / affected communities (See <b>Section 3.1</b> ), including MFFN. Three (3) visits for each of these communities are anticipated, to introduce the Project and gather feedback throughout the EA / IA processes. Communication materials will be developed to support these meetings, including: presentation decks; display boards; and fact sheets. These will be plain language and visually inviting. Note that the undertaking of in-person community meetings will depend on the communities being open to receiving visitors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alternative means of consultation and engagement may be required as outlined further below in this table.	
Community discussions with / visits to other neighbouring Indigenous communities will also be encouraged and planned on request.	
<b>Community Member Discussions</b> with members of neighbouring Indigenous communities may be held to discuss the Project and obtain input, and will include applicable and relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders). These discussions will be coordinated with data gathering needs for preparation of the EA / IS.	
<b>Topic-Specific Community Member Discussions</b> , potentially as an additional follow-up consultation and engagement activity for neighbouring Indigenous communities who would like to attend a focused conversation around a specific topic, for example Caribou. The meeting would be held in a central location that is easy for all interested groups to attend.	
<b>Social Media / Facebook</b> will be leveraged to communicate more broadly with the MFFN community; MFFN's existing Facebook page will be used. Information related to Project notices and MFFN community meetings will be shared with the MFFN consultation and engagement co-ordinator for posting to the existing community site(s). Neighbouring Indigenous communities can also be provided with social media posts, if appropriate (e.g., to advertise a community meeting). Note: comments or private messages received through social media will not be tracked or used in consultation and engagement summary reports, unless requested by the individual. This tool is strictly for sharing information. Direction will be provided on how to formally submit comments to be tracked and considered.	
<b>Community Consultation Co-ordinators</b> may be engaged to assist those communities with the highest potential to be affected by the Project and have a high level of Project interest (and therefore the highest level of consultation and engagement), coordinate in-community events, assist with Indigenous Knowledge programs and inform the MFFN Project Team of consultation and engagement requirements and cultural protocols.	
<b>Web conferencing (e.g., Microsoft Teams, Zoom or WebEx)</b> will be leveraged to host Project discussions as an alternative to face-to-face meetings with Indigenous communities, decided at the preference and capacity of each neighbouring Indigenous community.	
<b>Local Radio Stations</b> can be used to reach remote neighbouring Indigenous communities and share upcoming consultation and engagement opportunities, interviews with the MFFN Project Team or general Project promotion.	
<b>All (including Indigenous Communities, Government Agencies and Interested Persons)</b>	
<b>Project Statutory Notices</b> will be provided throughout the EA / IA processes at key milestones, via registered mail and email, and published in local newspapers and on the radio. Additional notices (e.g., Field Study notices) will be directed to appropriate audiences via email / mail and posted on social media. All Project Statutory notices will also be mailed and emailed to individuals on the Contact List.	
A <b>Project Website</b> ( <a href="http://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca">www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca</a> ) will provide ongoing access to information, employment opportunities and planned consultation and engagement activities, and will serve as a method to receive feedback and comments. The website will be updated through the EA / IA processes to include all published information about the Project and be populated with Project updates at key Project milestones. The website will be maintained and updated in a way that allows for users with low bandwidth and slow internet connection to access information.	
Electronic versions of any newsletters / Project updates will also be available through the blog function of the website.	

<b>Consultation Activity / Tool</b>
<b>Project Hotline / Email Address and contact information</b> (e.g., telephone number and email address) will be included on Project communication materials so that people know who to contact to solicit information or discuss Project activities and provide feedback.
<b>Newsletters and Email Updates</b> will be provided throughout the EA / IA processes to keep people informed and up-to-date on Project progress; distribution will be scheduled around the timing of planned PIC / off-reserve community meetings. Each update will be distributed to MFFN community members, neighbouring Indigenous communities and persons who have expressed an interest in the Project. Newsletters will also be made available at the MFFN Band Office, on the website and through the electronic mailing list. Paper copies of newsletters can also be provided to interested communities or interested persons, if requested.
<b>Comment Forms / Questionnaires</b> will be developed and used to gather feedback at PICs and community meetings.
<b>Key Informant Interviews</b> will be scheduled with select interested persons / organizations (e.g., Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee, business operators and resource users) to gather information regarding key issues and possible concerns. Presentations to key groups will be an important component of soliciting feedback for decision-making.
<b>Public Information Centres</b> will be held at key Project milestones in Thunder Bay on three (3) occasions, with consideration of additional locations including the Municipality of Greenstone, Longlac and Sioux Lookout. These events will serve to discuss the Project and obtain input from interested persons. PICs will be advertised in local newspapers, and through the Project Contact List and website. Note that the undertaking of PICs will depend on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and willingness of interested persons to come together for these types of events. An online PIC may be hosted as an alternative for one or more of these planned events.
<b>Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (Draft and Final)</b> may be reviewed by interested persons during public review periods. These documents will be made available on the Project website ( <a href="http://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca">www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca</a> ), will be posted at select locations and provided to all Indigenous communities identified in Table 3.1 and any others that express an interest in receiving documents by mail, electronic copy and USB. Plain language and translated copies of the documents can be provided.

An **Indigenous Knowledge Program** has been developed for the Project (see **Section 4.1.2**) which will serve to collect and determine, in discussion with neighbouring Indigenous communities, how Indigenous Knowledge (e.g., natural environment information) and information on Indigenous land and resource use (e.g., harvesting, cultural sites) in the vicinity of the Project area will become part of the EA / IA processes and Project planning and design. The program has been structured to seek input and feedback from neighbouring Indigenous communities at the various stages of the EA / IA processes including valued components, baseline conditions, effects assessment and impact management measures. As noted in **Section 4.1.2**, the Indigenous Knowledge Program is complementary to the Consultation Plan. If Indigenous Knowledge is brought forward by a neighbouring Indigenous community during consultation and engagement activities, the community will be invited to participate in the Indigenous Knowledge Program.

In addition to the above listed activities / tools, consideration will be given to online (virtual) tools and / or physical-distancing approaches that are in keeping with the COVID-19 pandemic and associated regulations. Recognizing that in-person meetings may not be feasible, MFFN will consider the use of a variety of accessible online platforms such as WebEx, Microsoft Teams Live or Zoom. Virtual consultation and engagement will be designed to meet the objectives of face-to-face interactions and will mimic the experience of in-person discussions without participants having to leave the comfort and safety of their homes. Tools typically used for in-person meetings, such as like brain-storming and break-out rooms, can all be effectively used online to gain the insights needed to advance the Project. The actual online platform and tools used will be decided through consideration of the meeting objectives and discussions with neighbouring Indigenous communities and interested persons. Consideration will also be given to in-person consultation and engagement approaches that respect the need to physically-distance (e.g., small-group / physically separated in-person meetings), as well as low-technology options for telephones, without the need for internet.

Consideration will also be given to information that is considered confidential. Neighboring Indigenous communities will be part of the review process for meeting summaries and minutes and can clearly identify information that is not to be included in public-facing documentation.

The approach to consultation and engagement throughout the EA / IA processes is designed to provide flexibility and adaptability to evolving Project needs and may involve community-specific consultation and engagement plans.

As with any project, it is anticipated that there will be Indigenous communities and interested persons who may require additional consultation and engagement not reflected in this approach. In addition, communication and engagement tools will be regularly evaluated to gauge effectiveness and adjustments will be made as necessary for implementation of a robust and effective consultation and engagement program.

This Consultation Plan is subject to revision based on input received on the ToR and future consultation and engagement during the preparation of the EA / IS, including input from neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons.

#### **4.1.6 Considerations of Identity and Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) in Engagement**

For the purposes of the IA process, the consultation and engagement program will consider a diverse range of perspectives from interested communities and their members identified in the Agency's Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and the Public Participation Plan. This will include at a minimum engaging with:

- **Neighbouring Indigenous communities, including relevant subpopulations:**
  - Women;
  - Youth; and,
  - Elders.
- **Non-Indigenous communities including:**
  - Women
  - Youth; and,
  - Activity-based subgroups (e.g., recreationalists, snowmobilers, tourism establishment operators).

The Proponent will also consult and engage with other subpopulations identified by communities during consultation and engagement. The findings from these sessions and the additional identity groups identified by communities through consultation and engagement will be considered within the socio-economic assessments (i.e., Social, Economic, Land and Resource Use) and the Indigenous Knowledge Program for the purposes of data collection and considering disproportionate effects.

During consultation and engagement, these aforementioned groups will be consulted and engaged with on targeted input outlined in **Table 4-2**.

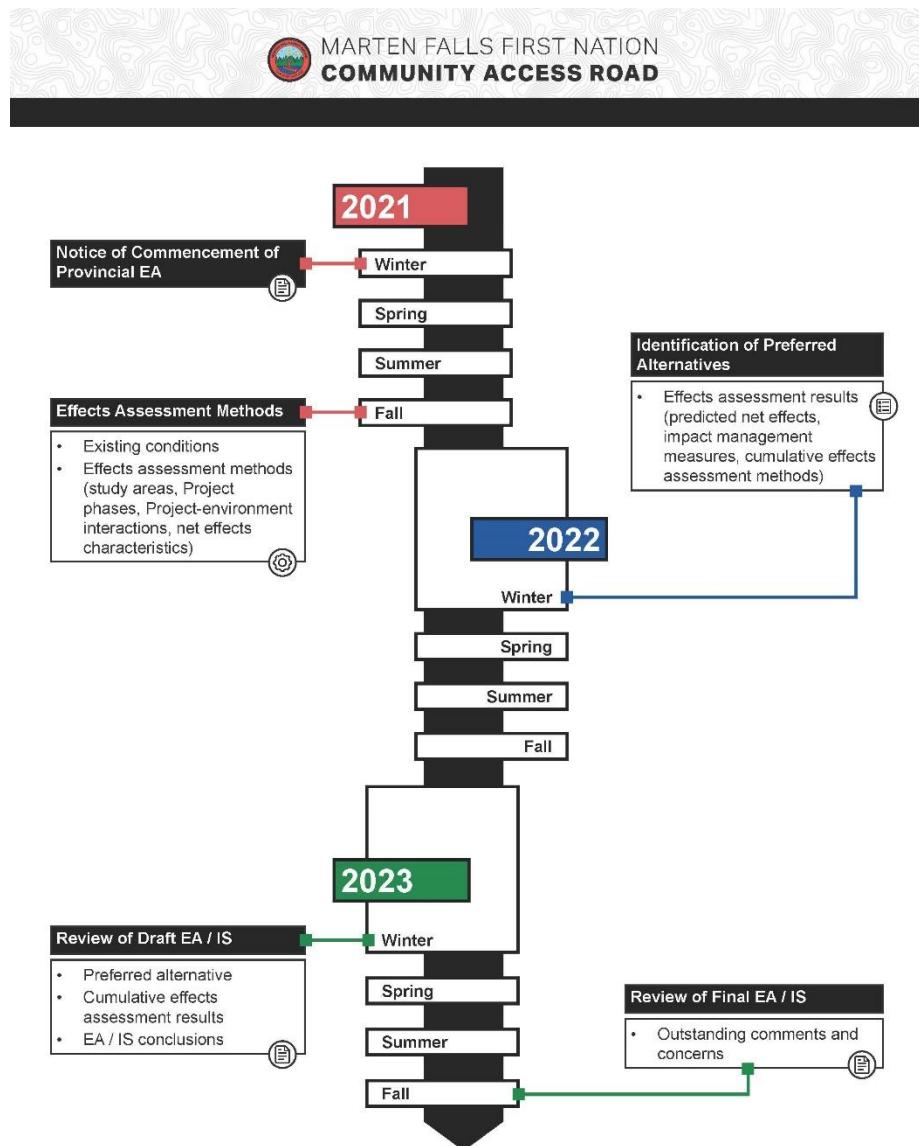
Consultation and engagement activities with these communities, subject to interest, will include subpopulation-specific community sessions. In addition to these activities, specialized knowledge will be gathered through other disciplines such as Social, Economic, Land and Resource Use and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests. The Socio-economic Data Collection Program is expected to include targeted interviews, focus groups, questionnaires and other niche tools to gather information from diverse populations to resolve gaps in socio-economic secondary data. These diverse populations include the identity groups referenced in this Consultation Plan and those identified by communities during consultation and engagement. Subject to interest, community-led primary data collection and secondary data sharing for Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous land and resource use will be completed through the Indigenous Knowledge Program. Details on the Indigenous Knowledge Program are outlined in **Section 3.4.2** of the Proposed ToR.

When feedback is received from communities, issues, comments and questions will be tracked from all consultation and engagement activities as outlined above in **Section 4.1.5**. Specific to GBA+ objectives, this will include efforts to engage with diverse populations. It is expected this will include activities specific to subgroups and tabulation of consultation and engagement participation with respect to identity factors. This will provide summary statistics to demonstrate the diversity achieved in consultation and engagement. Where appropriate, findings from consultation and engagement will be validated by established leaders and representatives of these subpopulations.

#### 4.1.7 Schedule

For each consultation and engagement milestone, the planned activities, targeted input and anticipated timing are identified in **Table 4-2**. The activities will be directed to MFFN community, neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies (including the EA Government Review Team) and other stakeholders who have expressed interest in the Project. Consultation at each milestone has been designed in a stepwise manner to receive feedback on targeted input prior to advancing to the next stage of the EA / IA processes. As the Project progresses, interested persons will be made aware of when Project-related decisions will occur and that can be influenced by their input. **Figure 4-1** provides the anticipated timeline on when key decisions will be made. Discussions and feedback shared during each milestone will be documented and recorded as described in **Section 6**.

**Figure 4-1: Key Decision Timeline**



The anticipated timing provided in **Table 4-2** may change during development of the EA / IS based on progress, input received on the ToR, the Minister's decision on the Proposed ToR, and input received throughout the EA / IA processes. The MFFN Project Team will provide regular updates to Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on the timing of consultation and engagement throughout the Project.

**Table 4-2: Consultation and Engagement Milestones, Schedule, Activities and Targeted Input**

Milestone	Planned Activities	Targeted Input	Anticipated Timing
<b>Notice of Commencement of Provincial EA</b>	<p><b>Indigenous communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of Commencement</li> <li>▪ MFFN Website update</li> <li>▪ Distribute Letter to Chief and Councils</li> <li>▪ Engagement of Community Consultation Co-ordinators, as appropriate</li> <li>▪ Hold discussions / meetings with interested Chiefs and Councils and / or Indigenous communities</li> <li>▪ Newsletters and email updates</li> <li>▪ Social media updates</li> <li>▪ Follow-up communication to confirm information was received and the material(s) provided were understood</li> </ul> <p><b>Government agencies and interested persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of Commencement</li> <li>▪ MFFN Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletters and email updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request information to determine and identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Level of interest in Project</li> <li>– Level of interest in meeting / discussions with Chiefs and Councils and / or Indigenous communities</li> <li>– How Indigenous communities would like to be kept informed during the EA / IA processes</li> <li>– Level of interest in creating Indigenous community-specific Engagement Plan(s) as they relate to the EA / IS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Winter 2021 – Spring 2021
<b>Effects Assessment Methods</b>	<p><b>Indigenous communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of PIC#1</li> <li>▪ Engagement of Community Consultation Co-ordinators, as appropriate</li> <li>▪ Hold discussions / meetings, considering applicable and relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders)</li> <li>▪ PIC #1 (in-person / or virtual)</li> <li>▪ Plain language Project updates (translated, as required)</li> <li>▪ Key informant interviews</li> <li>▪ Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletter and email update(s)</li> <li>▪ Social media update(s)</li> <li>▪ Follow-up communication to confirm information was received and the material(s) provided were understood</li> </ul> <p><b>Government agencies and interested persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of PIC#1</li> <li>▪ PIC #1 (in-person / or virtual)</li> <li>▪ Key informant interviews</li> <li>▪ MFFN Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletter and email update(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obtain feedback on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Consultation and engagement approach</li> <li>– Planned baseline field studies</li> <li>– Existing conditions and results of baseline field studies completed</li> <li>– EA / IA processes</li> <li>– Local and regional study areas, Project phases, criteria and indicators, Project-environment interactions and net effects characteristics</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Request information to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Indigenous community values and topics of interest</li> <li>– Potential effects and impact management measures to be considered</li> <li>– Impacts of Project on Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and potential impact management measures to avoid, mitigate and off-set the impact(s)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Seek confirmation whether input and feedback provided during the previous milestone was captured appropriately</li> </ul>	Summer 2021 – Fall 2021  Fall 2021

**Table 4-2: Consultation and Engagement Milestones, Schedule, Activities and Targeted Input**

Milestone	Planned Activities	Targeted Input	Anticipated Timing
<b>Identification of Preferred Alternatives</b>	<p><b>Indigenous communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of PIC #2</li> <li>▪ Engagement of Community Consultation Co-ordinators, as appropriate</li> <li>▪ Hold discussions / meetings, considering applicable and relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders)</li> <li>▪ PIC #2 (in-person / or virtual)</li> <li>▪ Plain language Project updates (translated, as required)</li> <li>▪ Key informant interviews</li> <li>▪ Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletter and email update(s)</li> <li>▪ Social Media update(s)</li> </ul> <p>Follow-up communication to confirm information was received and the material(s) provided were understood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obtain feedback on effects assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Identified potential effects, including impacts of Project on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights</li> <li>– Proposed impact management measures</li> <li>– Predicted net effects</li> <li>– Results of the comparative analysis of advantages and disadvantages</li> <li>– Preferred alternative selected</li> <li>– Preliminary road design, to the extent available</li> <li>– Cumulative effects assessment methods</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Request information to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Potential follow-up program measures including monitoring measures and adaptive management</li> <li>– Potential projects and activities that could act cumulatively with the Project</li> <li>– How Indigenous communities can participate in the Project</li> <li>– Potential cumulative effects to be considered</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Fall 2021 – Winter 2022
	<p><b>Government agencies and interested persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of PIC #2</li> <li>▪ PIC #2 (in-person / or virtual)</li> <li>▪ Key informant interviews</li> <li>▪ MFFN Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletter and email update(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek confirmation (e.g., through early release of community-specific RoC) whether input and feedback provided during the previous milestone was captured appropriately</li> </ul>	Winter 2022
<b>Review of Draft EA / IS</b>	<p><b>Indigenous communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of Draft EA / IS</li> <li>▪ Post Draft EA / IS at Band Offices and participating municipal locations</li> <li>▪ Distribute letters to Chiefs and Councils</li> <li>▪ Engagement of Community Consultation Co-ordinators, as appropriate</li> <li>▪ Hold Meeting / discussion, considering applicable and relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders)</li> <li>▪ PIC #3 (in-person / or virtual)</li> <li>▪ Plain language Project updates (translated)</li> <li>▪ MFFN Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletter and email update(s)</li> <li>▪ Social media update(s)</li> <li>▪ Follow-up to confirm Indigenous communities received information, understand material(s) provided and to confirm their input was captured appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obtain feedback on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Draft EA / IS</li> <li>– Proposed impact management measures and follow-up program measures, including monitoring measures and adaptive management plan(s)</li> <li>– Cumulative effects assessment results</li> <li>– EA / IS conclusions</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Seek confirmation whether input and feedback provided during the previous milestone was captured appropriately</li> </ul>	Fall 2022 – Winter 2022

**Table 4-2: Consultation and Engagement Milestones, Schedule, Activities and Targeted Input**

Milestone	Planned Activities	Targeted Input	Anticipated Timing
	<p><b>Government agencies and interested persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of Draft EA / IS</li> <li>▪ Post Draft EA / IS at participating municipal locations</li> <li>▪ PIC #3 (in-person / or virtual)</li> <li>▪ MFFN Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletter and email update(s)</li> </ul>		
Review of Final EA / IS	<p><b>Indigenous communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of Submission of Final EA / IS</li> <li>▪ Post Final EA / IS at Band Offices and participating municipal locations</li> <li>▪ Distribute letters to Chiefs and Councils</li> <li>▪ Engagement of Community Consultation Co-ordinators, as appropriate</li> <li>▪ Hold Meeting / discussion, considering applicable and relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders)</li> <li>▪ Plain language Project updates (translated, as required)</li> <li>▪ MFFN Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletter and email update(s)</li> <li>▪ Social media update(s)</li> <li>▪ Follow-up to confirm Indigenous communities received information</li> </ul> <p><b>Government agencies and interested persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Notice of Submission of Final EA / IS</li> <li>▪ Post Final EA / IS at participating municipal locations</li> <li>▪ MFFN Website update</li> <li>▪ Newsletter and email update(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of Final EA / IS</li> </ul>	Fall 2023

## 5. Issue Resolution

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Consultation and engagement is expected to bring to light issues that must be carefully addressed and considered in the EA / IA processes. Comments and input received throughout the EA / IA processes will be documented and included in a RoC for the EA / IS. Each issue or comment received will be considered and responded to by MFFN and documented in the EA / IS. If an issue persists, continued discussions, including face-to-face (or online) meetings (if possible), are proposed to explore potential solutions. If resolution cannot be reached, mediation by a neutral, mutually acceptable third party will be considered. Issues that cannot be resolved will be noted along with documentation of attempts to resolve the issue. Unaddressed issues will be reflected in the IS for the Agency's consideration including information on efforts made to address the issue even if attempts were unsuccessful.

If issues are raised outside of the mandate of the Proponent, the Marten Falls-Ontario MOU on Shared Consultation Responsibilities allows that these issues are referred to Ontario (MECP and ENDM) to address.

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## 6. Record of Consultation

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For successful completion of the EA / IS, it is essential that the consultation and engagement process be documented, to appropriately categorize and address feedback received. To support the ToR, a RoC has been developed to track all incoming and outgoing discussions, correspondence and meetings since the Notice of Commencement of the ToR. This RoC includes notes on how questions and concerns may have been addressed in the ToR or will be considered in the EA. This Record provides a detailed account of all communication exchanged with neighbouring Indigenous communities and interested persons. A similar RoC will be prepared that documents engagement and consultation undertaken during the EA / IA processes and will include the following:

- **Summary of Key Consultation Activities Undertaken During Preparation of the EA / IS:** An overview of key consultation and engagement activities, including when and where they happened, the number of participants, including any subpopulations represented, and a description of the associated information materials provided.
- **Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action:** Identifies specific issues / comments raised, the corresponding topic, communication channel, response / action to the issue / comment and how it was addressed or considered in the EA / IS.
- **Consultation Log:** A detailed correspondence tracking table including date the correspondence occurred, method of consultation and engagement (e.g., email, phone call, letter, in-person meeting), whether it was incoming or outgoing, contact name and title, Project Team member involved (e.g., MFFN Leadership, MFFN Community Member Advisor, MFFN Project Team or MFFN Project Consultant) and a summary of the correspondence.
- **Appendices:** The Appendices will include notices, letters, meeting summaries / minutes, presentations and correspondence in the following sections:
  - Notices and Other Information Releases;
  - Neighbouring Indigenous communities;
    - Information distributed to all communities;
    - Community-specific information;
  - Interested Persons; and
  - Government Agencies.

As with the ToR RoC, the EA / IS RoC will describe engagement and consultation activities undertaken with each neighbouring Indigenous community.

Logistical correspondence (e.g., scheduling a meeting) is not included in the Appendices but is tracked in the appropriate consultation and engagement log. The only instance when logistical correspondence is included in the Appendices is when a meeting was not scheduled or postponed; this information is included to show level of effort.

A copy of the RoC will be provided to agencies. Each neighbouring Indigenous community will be provided with a copy of their community-specific record for their consideration and review before it is included in the public record. This is an opportunity for neighbouring Indigenous communities to comment on the contents of their community-specific record and review how their feedback was considered or may have been incorporated into the EA / IS, and where changes may have been made in specific documents. A final RoC including all incoming and outgoing Project correspondence will be provided as an appendix to the EA / IS. A section summarizing consultation and engagement efforts will be included in the body of the EA.

## 7. Consultation and Engagement Effectiveness

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It will be necessary to gauge the effectiveness of the Consultation Plan throughout the EA / IA processes. The effectiveness of consultation and engagement activities may be assessed against the following means and could result in changes to the activities and efforts to implement them:

- Level of effort sending correspondences to neighbouring Indigenous communities to encourage input during key milestones;
- Level of effort sending correspondences to neighbouring Indigenous communities to set-up meetings (telephone, online or in-person) during milestones;
- Level of effort to schedule meeting at key milestones with neighbouring Indigenous communities;
- Level of correspondence following up with neighbouring Indigenous communities to confirm receipt and understanding of technical information;
- Execution of community-specific Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements to confirm confidentiality of Indigenous Knowledge shared and incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge into the EA / IS in accordance with community-specific protocols;
- Level of comments received via the Project website, at PICs and other in-person events;
- Timeliness to responding to all comments and questions;
- Follow-up with neighbouring Indigenous communities to confirm receipt and understanding of information provided;
- Attendance at live or online consultation and engagement events in consideration of the level and coverage of the events;
- Number of requests to join the Project Contact List;
- Number of website hits on the Project website;
- Satisfaction with information provided, measured by comments received at live events, on comment forms, and via email and telephone; and
- Proponent responsivity (e.g., time to respond to Project correspondence).

Ideally, MFFN will hold discussion with / meet with all 23 neighbouring Indigenous communities identified by MECP and the Agency at least once during the EA / IA processes and communicate regularly during each milestone. At a minimum, the MFFN Project Team's goal is to meet virtually or in-person at least once with all 11 of the neighbouring Indigenous communities currently outlined in **Section 3.1** as 'heightened interest'. It is understood that this list of communities may change over time. If neighbouring Indigenous communities do not express an interest in meeting or providing input during key milestones, the MFFN Project Team commits to reaching out at least twice during each milestone to each neighbouring Indigenous community through different communication channels (e.g., email, phone call).

## 8. References

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# Appendix A

## **Project-specific Environmental Assessment Government Review Team List**



# Project-specific Environmental Assessment Government Review Team

## 1. Provincial Agencies and Ministries

- Ontario Power Generation
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Cultural Industries
- Ministry of Indigenous Affairs
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ministry of Solicitor General
- Ministry of Transportation

## 2. Federal Agencies

- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Health Canada
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

## 3. Municipalities

- City of Thunder Bay
- Municipality of Greenstone
- The Corporation of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout





