



MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) is a remote First Nation community in northern Ontario, located at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki rivers. MFFN has a winter access road, but its condition varies making transportation of goods and people to and from the community unreliable; ultimately affecting the community's well-being. A multipurpose all-season road access connecting MFFN to the existing provincial highway network is needed to improve the well-being of the community and builds on decades of previous planning work. The Community Access Road does not include a road to the Ring of Fire; it is a separate project to the Northern Road Link Project.

Visioning Together

Planning for the Community Access Road is community-led; meaning MFFN community membership helps to develop solutions and advance decisions about the Community Access Road. MFFN—as the Proponent or owner of the Project—has formed a Project Team that includes community members and acts with guidance, direction and input from the Chief and Council, Community Member Advisors and community membership.

About the Process

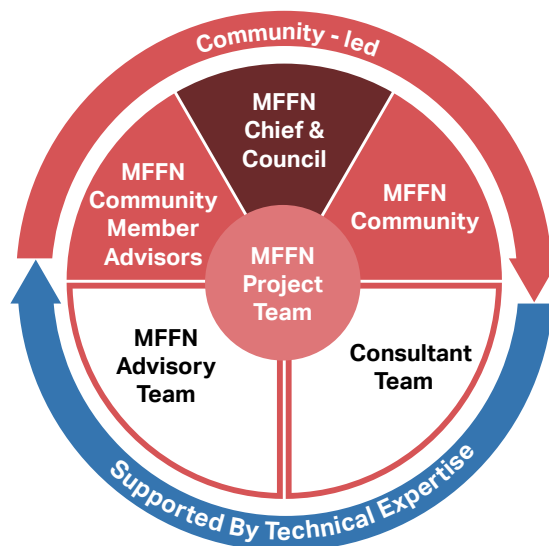
A first step in planning the proposed Community Access Road is to complete a provincial (Ontario) Environmental Assessment (EA) and federal Impact Assessment (IA). The Terms of Reference for the provincial EA was approved with amendments, and we are now in Phase #1 of the coordinated EA / IA process.

The EA / IA process will determine the preferred route and identify how the proposed Community Access Road may affect the social, cultural, economic, built and natural environments. To identify the route the road will follow and to understand how best to avoid and / or minimize Project effects, data is collected, studies are conducted and people are consulted with. Your input is important!

Imagining Community Access

The proposed Community Access Road is currently at the early stages of planning, and is intended to support both community needs and current and future industry. The access road is anticipated to include the following features:

- Between 190 km to 230 km of two-lane gravel road;
- Quarries, borrow areas and aggregate sources;
- Bridges for river and stream crossings; and
- Temporary construction access roads, work areas and camps.

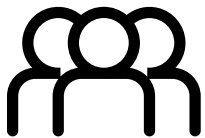
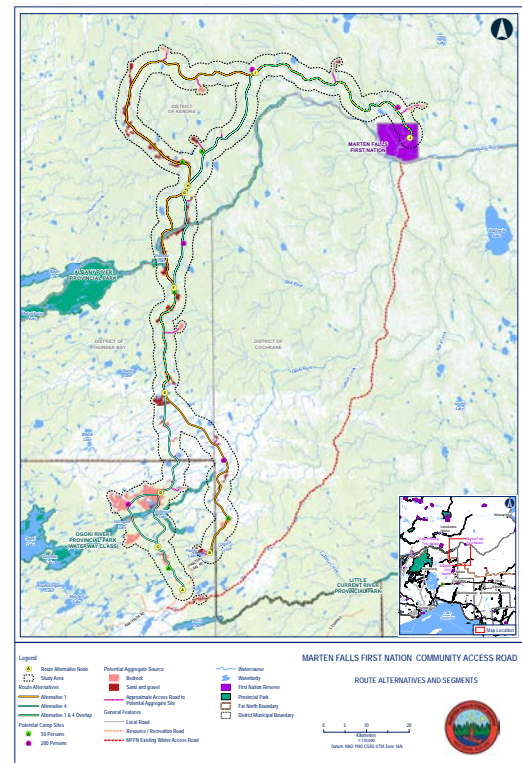


A Community Access Road would reduce reliance on winter roads, and the cost of transporting goods and services to the community; meaning more affordable fuel, food and other vital supplies and services.



Where Will the Proposed Community Access Road be Built?

Two general route alternatives (1 and 4) have been identified and will be assessed and evaluated through the EA / IA process. Both potential routes start at the end of Painter Lake Road and run north before turning eastward towards the MFFN community; roughly following the west / north side of the Albany River. An assessment and evaluation will be completed in the EA / IA process to compare the alternatives against a set of criteria specific to the Community Access Road. The criteria includes natural environment, socio-economic and cultural heritage, technical and Indigenous Knowledge considerations. The criteria represents important features and are used to predict whether the proposed Community Access Road may result in effects on the environment or people through its construction and operation.



Importance of Indigenous Knowledge and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests

- A critical component of the EA / IA process is the integration of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) into planning and design. The collection and use of IK is sensitive and will be guided by the Indigenous communities who participate. We are also striving to work with identified Indigenous communities to better understand Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests as they relate to the development of the Community Access Road.
- If your community has IK, or information pertaining to Indigenous Land and Resource Use or Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and / or Interests that you would like to share, please contact us. We'd be happy to meet with you to discuss.



Field Studies

- Field studies have been conducted since 2019 and will continue through 2022 and beyond to help us better understand the existing conditions of the environment and potential effects of the Community Access Road. This information can help inform how best to avoid or reduce potential effects during construction and operation on animals and the land.

Get Involved

The MFFN Community Access Road Project Team welcomes your feedback. Please contact us at any time with questions or comments, or to schedule a meeting. We want to hear what you have to say.

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