



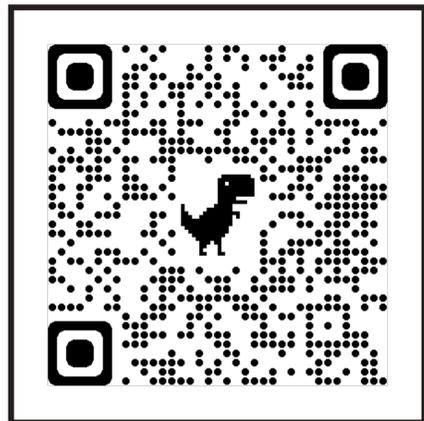
Welcome! Boozhoo!

Marten Falls First Nation All Season Community Access Road

Public Information Centre: Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement Phase #1 Introduction (PIC #3)

Thunder Bay: June 27, 2022

Geraldton: June 29, 2022





Planning for an All Season Community Access Road to Marten Falls First Nation is progressing well.

Thanks for joining us today to learn about:

- The Community Access Road history and updates since the Terms of Reference
- The Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) process
- Study areas, including specific updates made to reflect potential sources of aggregate material
- Preliminary results of field studies, and information on upcoming field studies
- Indigenous Knowledge and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests
- How Indigenous communities have been involved to-date and plans for future consultation and engagement, including the Community Coordinator Program
- Feedback we've heard to-date and how it is being considered
- Ongoing and future consultation and engagement opportunities
- Next steps

Have your say. Share your comments, ideas and values with the Project Team.





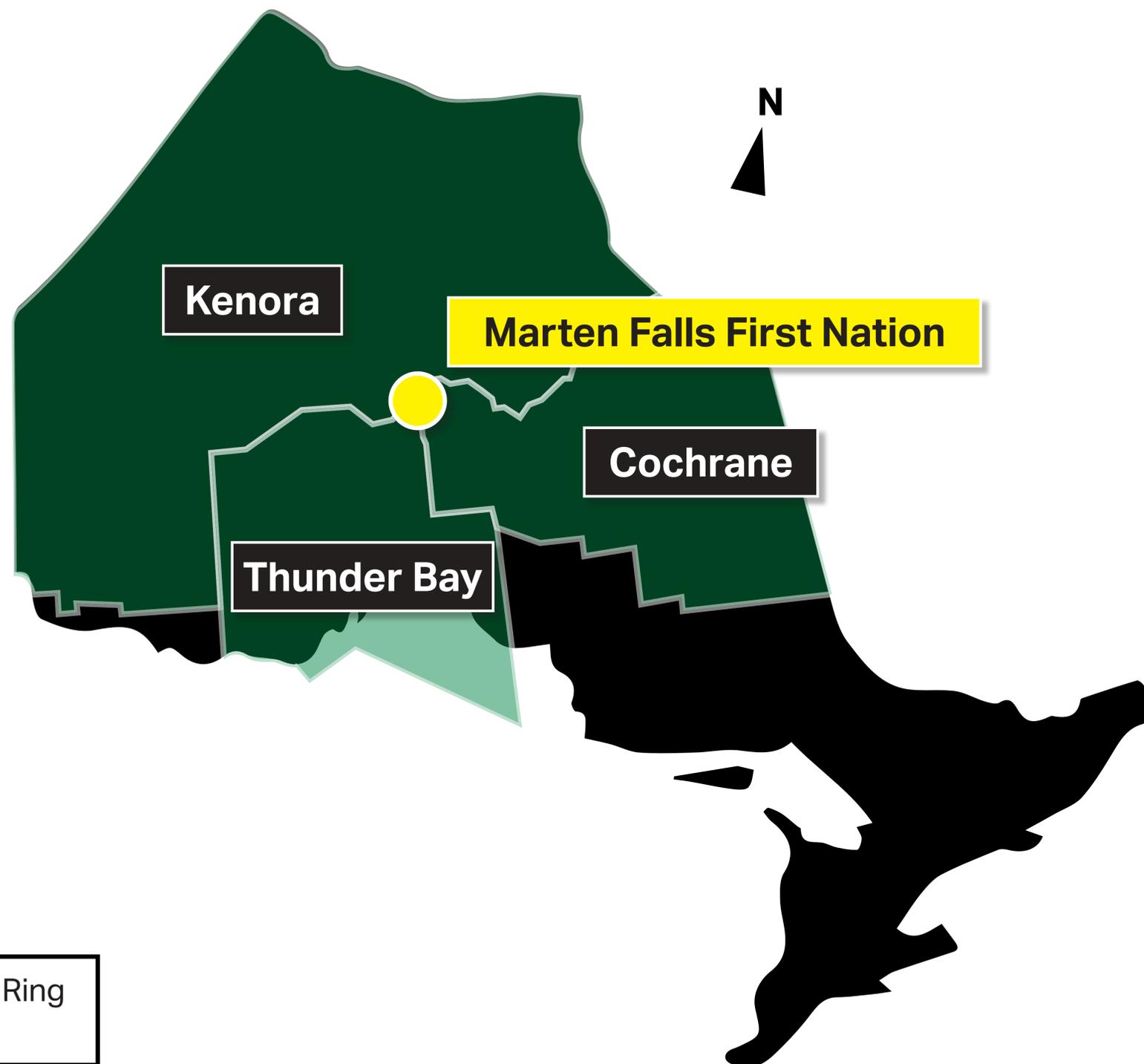
Introduction to the Community Access Road Project

Marten Falls First Nation has a winter access road but it is not reliable and makes transportation of goods and people difficult. All season road access connecting Marten Falls First Nation to the existing provincial highway network is needed to improve the well-being of the community.

Components of the Community Access Road

- 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.

The Community Access Road Project does not include a road to the Ring of Fire. It is a separate project to the Northern Road Link Project.





About Marten Falls First Nation

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) is a remote First Nation community led by an elected Chief and Council.

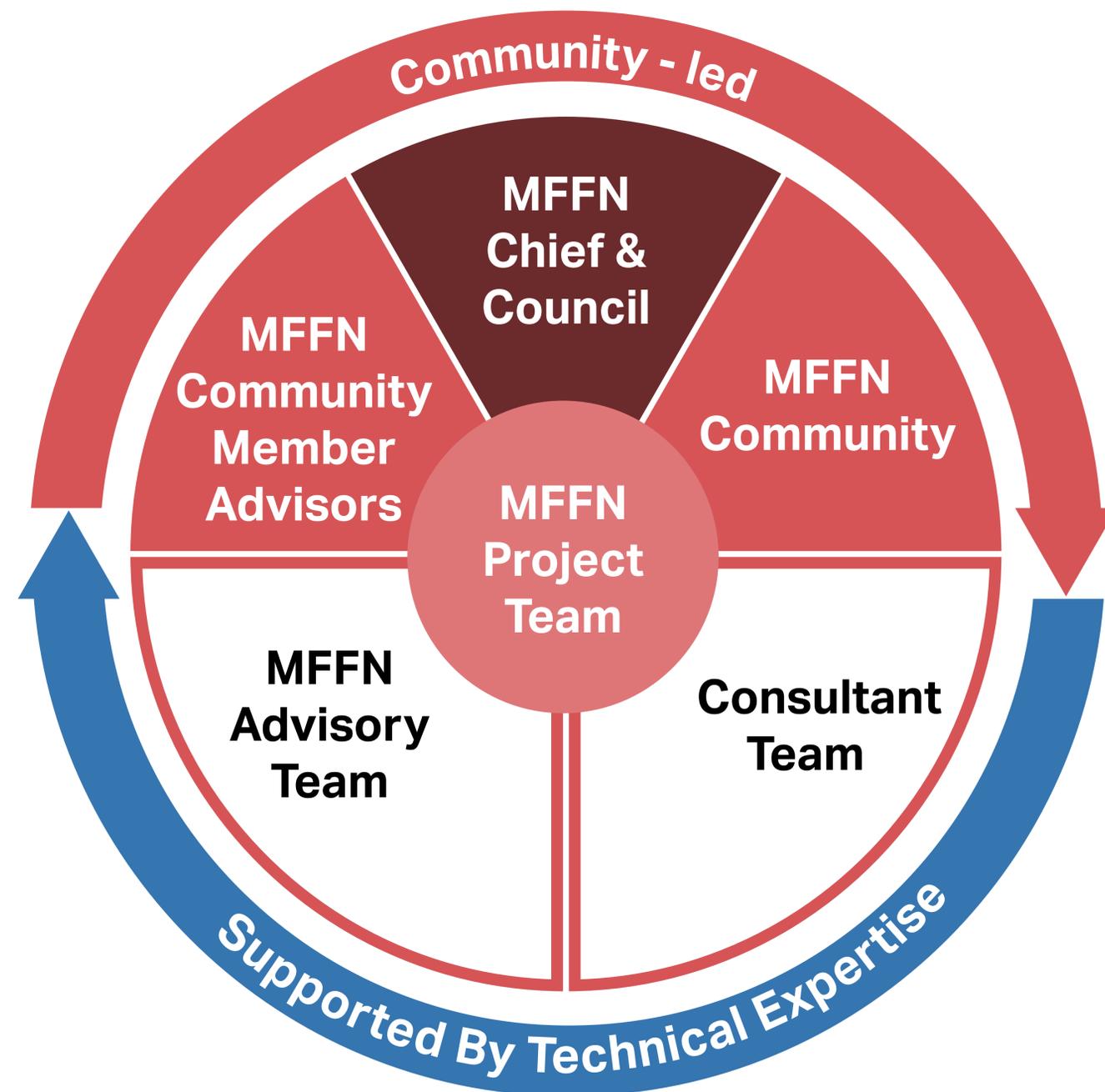
Marten Falls First Nation is located in the Far North of Ontario, at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki Rivers, approximately 170 km northeast of Nakina, Ontario, and 430 km northeast of Thunder Bay.

Marten Falls First Nation has a registered population of 814, with approximately 352 members living in-community.

What is Community-Led?

Planning for the Community Access Road is community-led. This means that the Marten Falls First Nation community membership helps to develop solutions and advance decisions about the Community Access Road.

Marten Falls First Nation—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 membership.





Why is the Community Access Road Needed?

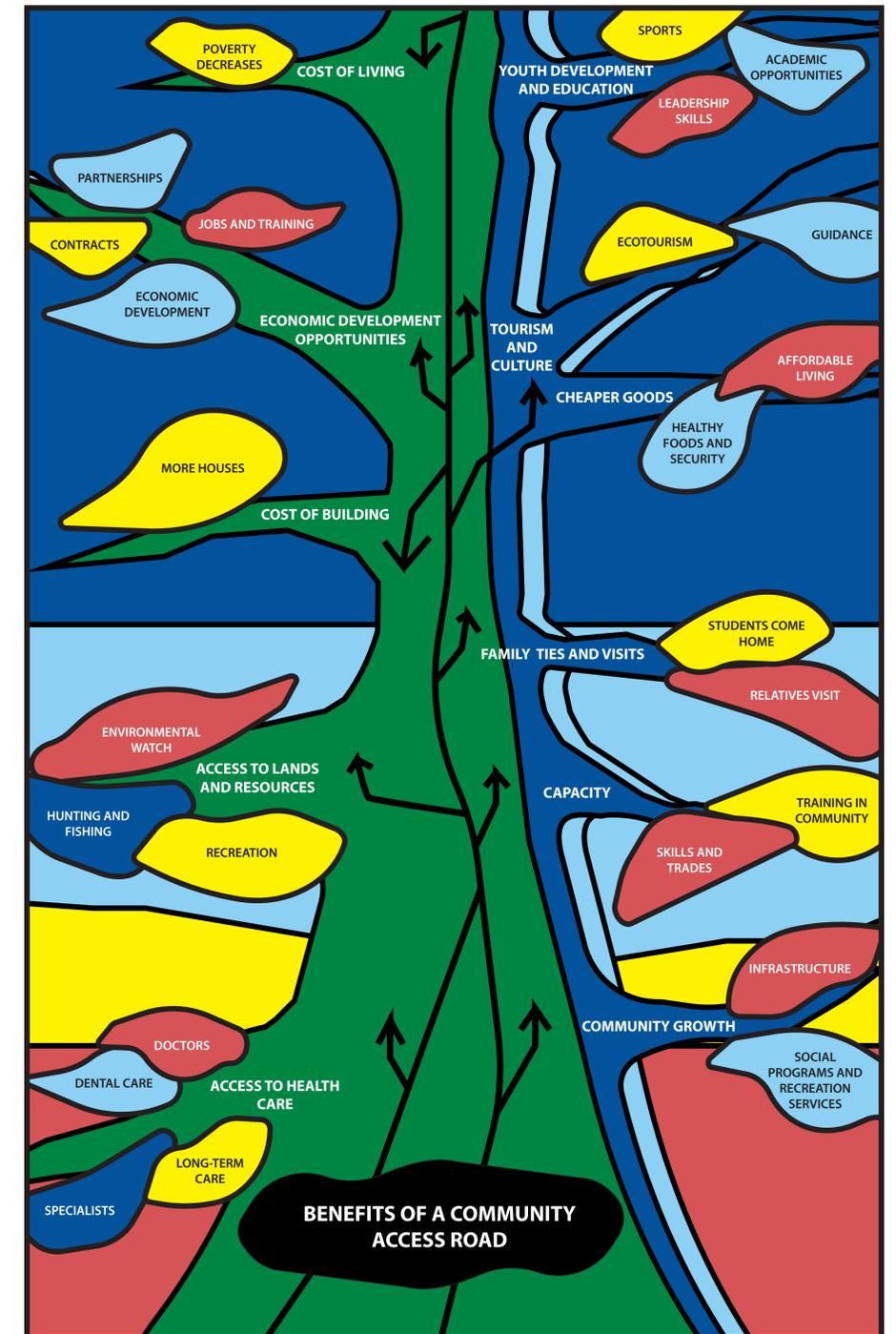
Better access would allow increased opportunities for:

- Social interaction with other communities;
- Access to emergency, health and social services;
- Training and jobs during planning and construction;
- Local economic development; and
- Increased ability for families to be together in the community.

A Community Access Road would reduce reliance on winter roads which have become increasingly unreliable due to climate change, and would also reduce transportation costs for goods and services; meaning more affordable food, fuel and other vital supplies and services.



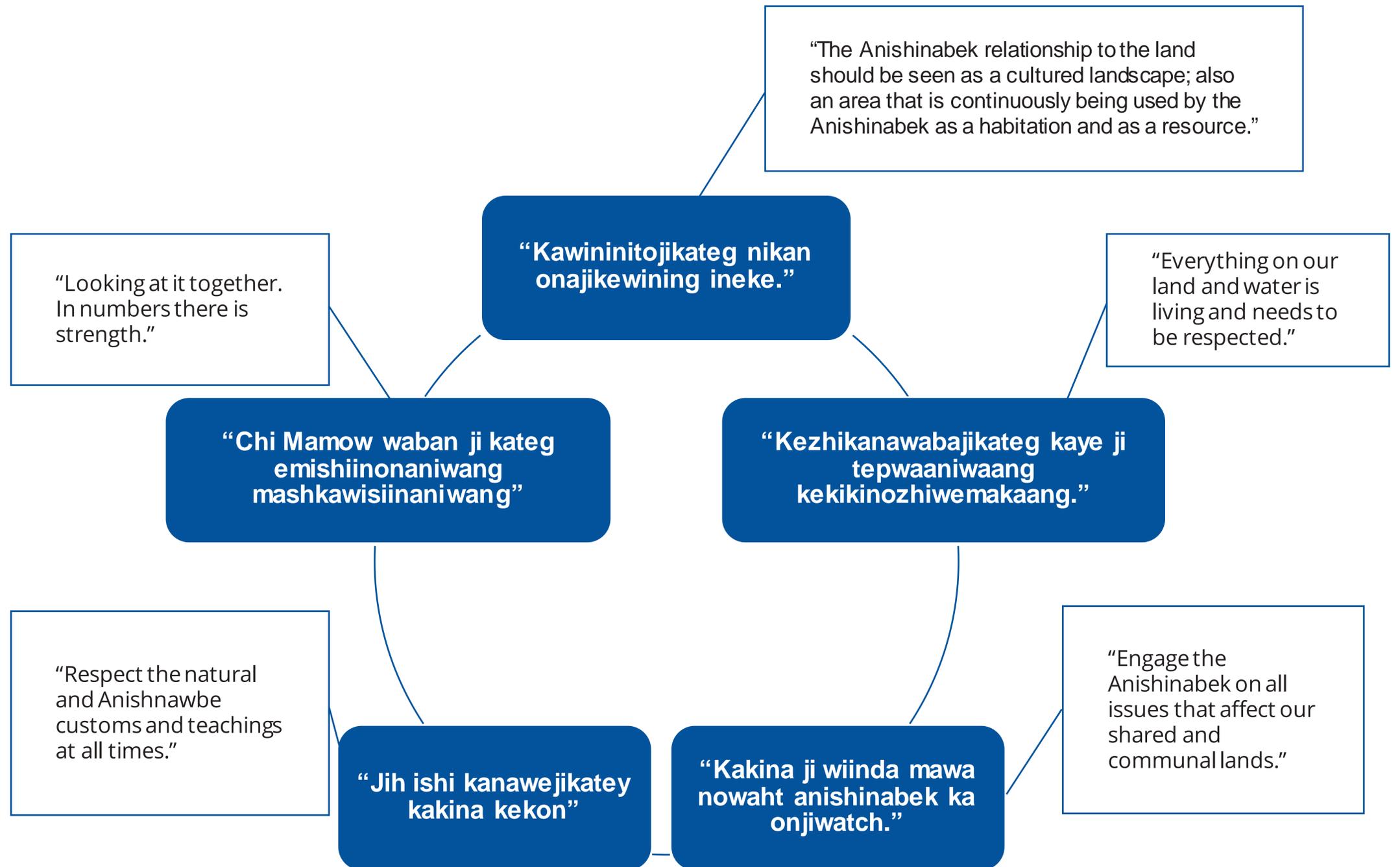
Do you have any concerns or feedback you would like to share?





Guiding Principles throughout the EA / IA

To honour the traditional lands in which this community access road will be developed and to respect the traditional teachings, the following Guiding Principles (developed for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Based Land Use Plan for Project Planning and Engagement) will be adopted throughout the Project.





Putting Guiding Principles into Action

The Guiding Principles will be put into action by:



Providing an opportunity for early and ongoing communication and dialogue.



Working with neighbouring Indigenous communities to confirm existence of, align with and respect protocols and policies for Anishinabek Knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge and / or leading collection of Indigenous Knowledge.



Customizing Consultation Plans.



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).



Taking cultural practices, events and activities into consideration when planning and scheduling events.



Facilitating an understanding of both the Indigenous Knowledge and western science and engineering principles.



Providing interested persons and potentially affected Indigenous communities ongoing opportunities to share their concerns, questions and opinions on potential effects of the Community Access Road, 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.



Demonstrating and validating how feedback was considered and / or incorporated into decision making, including providing direction as to where feedback is included in the EA / IS.



Hearing from Marten Falls First Nation Community Members

"A road to Marten Falls would be great because people could afford to go back there and not have to decide between paying bills or seeing family." – Mya Baxter

"We've been waiting over 20 years for a road to Marten Falls. In the last year alone, we had many challenges like early snow and the river freezing causing delays to bring materials into the community. If the winter road didn't freeze in time, over 20 truckloads of materials would have needed to be flown in or the community would have to wait until next year. This has been a long time coming! If we work together, we will get this road done!" – Lawrence Baxter



Where Will the Proposed Community Access Road be Built?

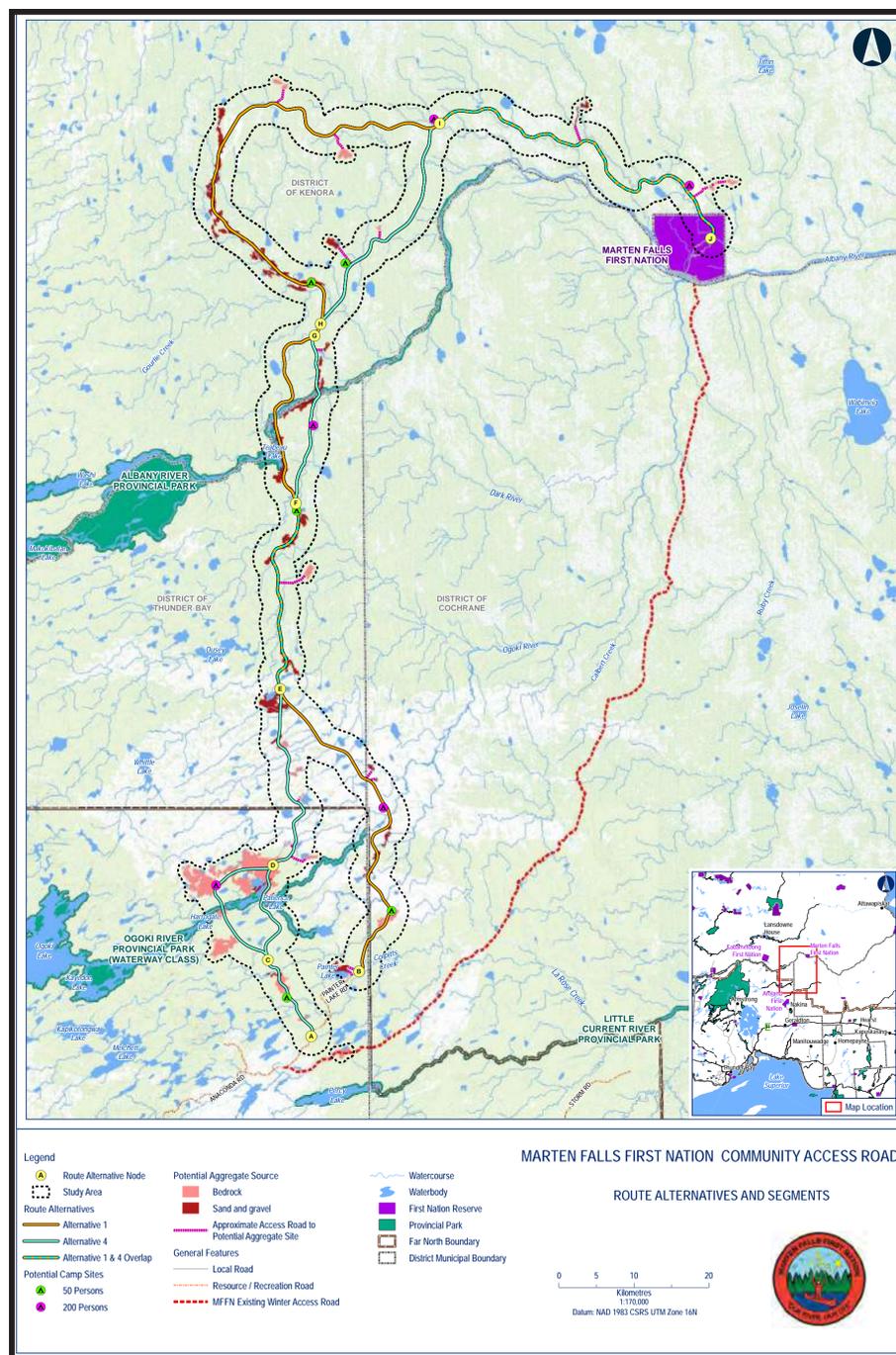
There are 2 general route alternatives that have been identified which will be assessed and evaluated through the EA / IA process.

What's New?

We have new information and we're updating the Local & Regional Study Areas to include areas where we can potentially source materials and build infrastructure, including:

- Potential aggregate areas (e.g., gravel to build the road)
- Access roads to aggregate sites
- Temporary construction camps

With the exception of some aggregate sites that will remain in place for road maintenance purposes when the road is built, the majority of these are temporary and only needed during construction.



Alternative 1 is shown in orange; Alternative 4 in green. Where alternatives intersect, the colours combine.



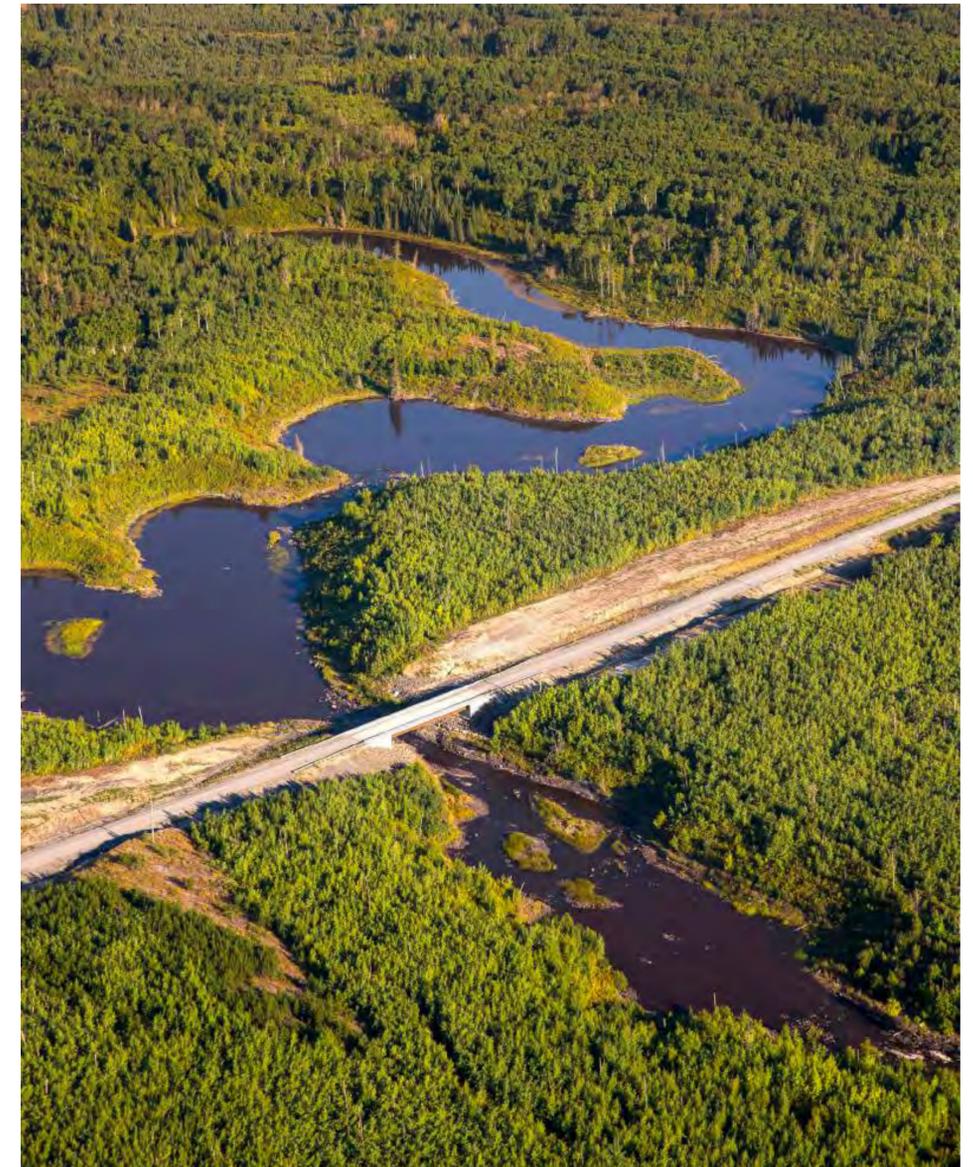
What do you think about the alternative routes?

What do you think about the new areas identified to source aggregate and related infrastructure?



What Could the Road or Bridges Look Like?

Sample photos of all season roads and bridges in Northern Manitoba with corridor dimensions that are the same as what is proposed for the Community Access Road Project.





What Makes the Community Access Road different than other projects?



Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road

- Marten Falls First Nation is the proponent.
- The purpose is to provide Marten Falls First Nation all-season access to their community; if approved the road would be designed and built as an all-season multi-use gravel road that would allow for industrial use.
- The proposed community access is a 190 km to 230 km two-lane gravel road.
- Regardless of decisions related to the Ring of Fire, the Northern Road Link or the Webequie Supply Road, the Community Access Road can be constructed independently and does not rely on the other road projects or activities.



Webequie Supply Road

- Webequie First Nation is the proponent.
- The purpose of the Supply Road is to provide year-round movement of supplies, materials and people to mineral exploration activities and future mining developments from Webequie First Nation's airport.
- The proposed road is 107 km.



Northern Road Link

- Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation are co-proponents.
- The purpose of the Northern Road Link is to enable economic activity by facilitating the transport of goods, services and resources. The proposed multi-use road is between the proposed Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road and the proposed Webequie Supply Road.
- The proposed road is approximately 117 km to 164 km.

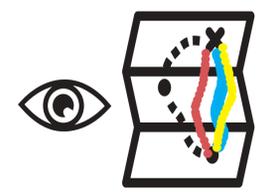


MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

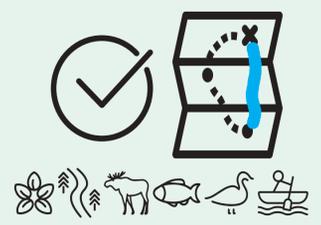
EA / IA Process & Design



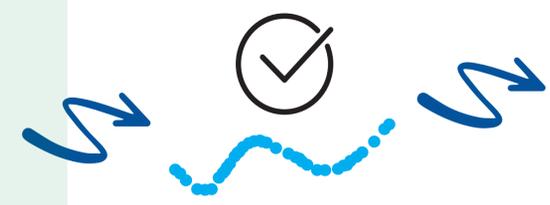
Step 1:
Define the
Community
Access Road



Step 2:
Identify
alternative
routes (i.e., #1,
#2, #3, #4)



Step 3:
Evaluate alternative
routes #1 and
#4, temporary
infrastructure and
aggregate sources
against a set of criteria
and indicators

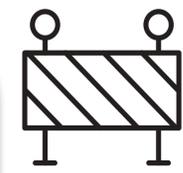


Step 4:
Select the
preferred
route



Step 5:
Submit the
combined
provincial EA
Report and the
federal
Impact
Statement

Federal and
provincial
decisions
made to
approve
or not. If
approved,
Project
moves
forward



Operation &
Maintenance

**Marten Falls First
Nation made a
community decision
to move forward
with #1 and #4**

**WE ARE
HERE**

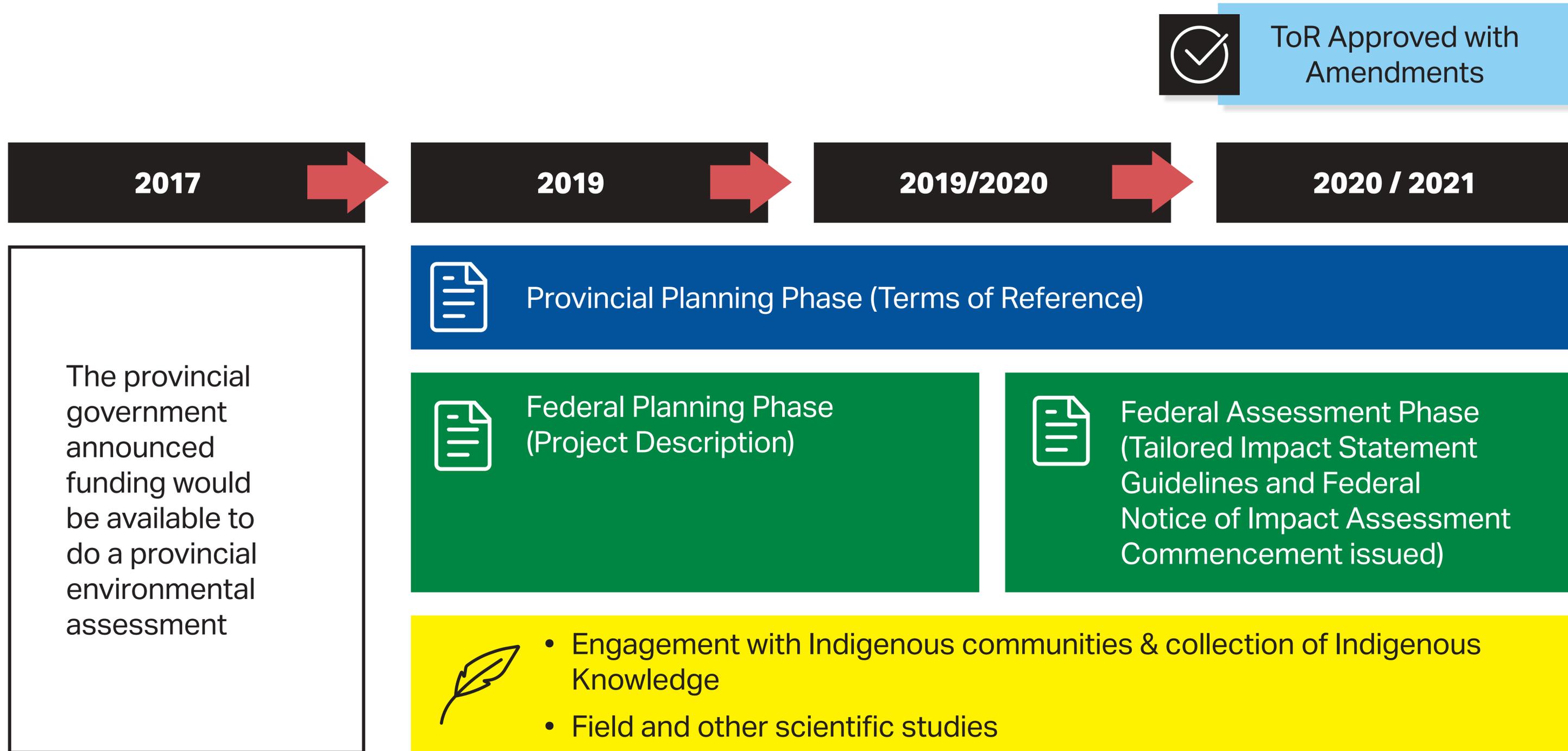
? What is the Environmental Assessment (EA) / Impact Assessment (IA) Process? The first step in planning the proposed Community Access Road is to complete a provincial (Ontario) EA and federal IA. Since this is combined, it's referred to as the EA / IA Process.

? What is an Impact Statement (IS)? A detailed technical document prepared by Marten Falls First Nation to meet federal requirements. The provincial version is called the EA Report. The provincial EA Report and the federal IS will be combined as one report.



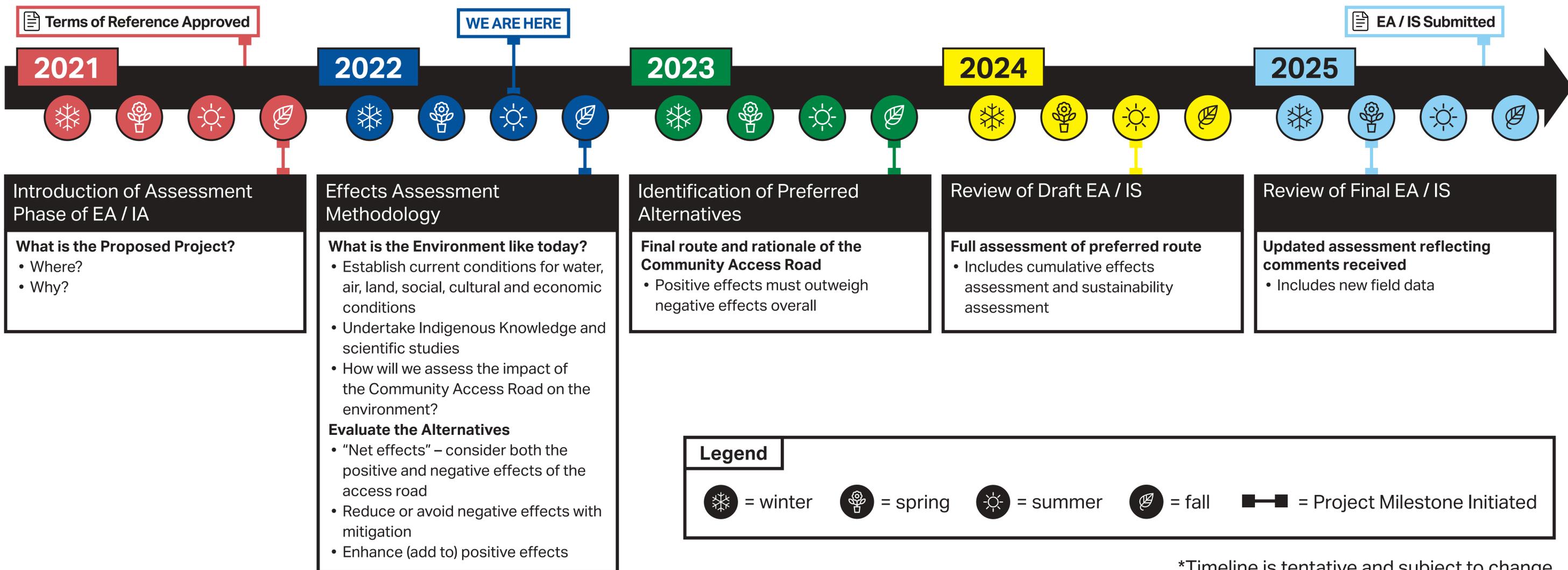


Previous Milestones





Marten Falls Community Access Road EA / IA Process Milestones Timeline*



*Timeline is tentative and subject to change



Proposed Alternative Route Evaluation Criteria for the EA / IA Process

Using a set of criteria and indicators, the evaluation will identify the preferred route for the Community Access Road, temporary infrastructure and aggregate sources with the least potential for negative effects, greatest opportunity for mitigating negative effects and greatest benefit to the community. Alternatives #1 and #4 will be evaluated against the following (which are listed in no particular order):



Natural Environment

- Air quality;
- Noise;
- Peatlands;
- Physiography, Geology, Terrain and Soils;
- Surface water (e.g., lakes, rivers, ponds, creeks) and groundwater;
- Significant ecological features and protected sites;
- Vegetation communities, including wetlands and muskeg;
- Wildlife and fish; and
- Species at Risk.



Socio-economic and Cultural Heritage

- Archaeological sites;
- Community well-being;
- Community services and infrastructure;
- Changes to land use and access for industrial / commercial business activity; and
- Human Health.



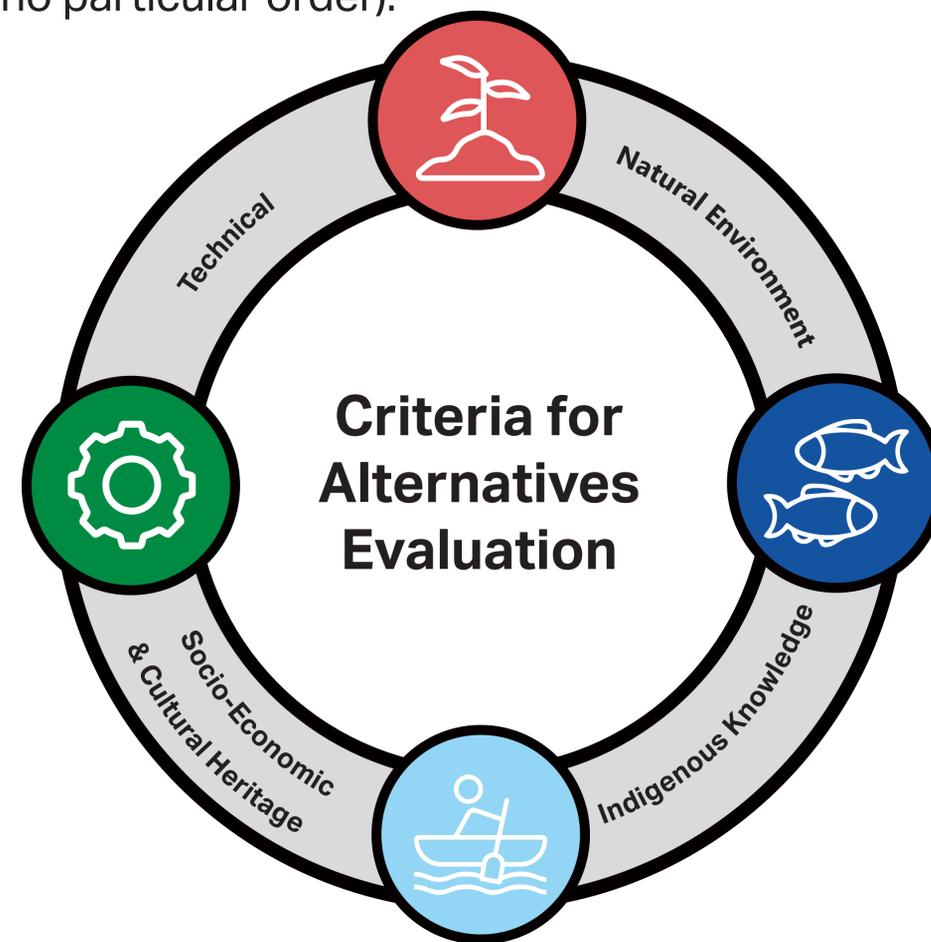
Technical

- Route length;
- Aggregate availability;
- Construction implementation;
- Capital cost;
- Safety; and
- Maintenance cost.



Indigenous Knowledge

- Traditional use of land and resources, including Indigenous and Treaty Rights;
- Cultural and spiritual sites;
- Indigenous landscapes; and
- Reserve land.



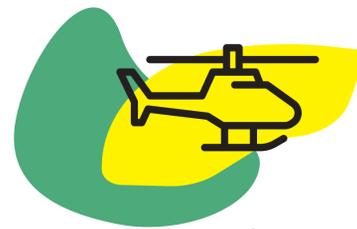
 Are there other criteria you suggest we consider?

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.

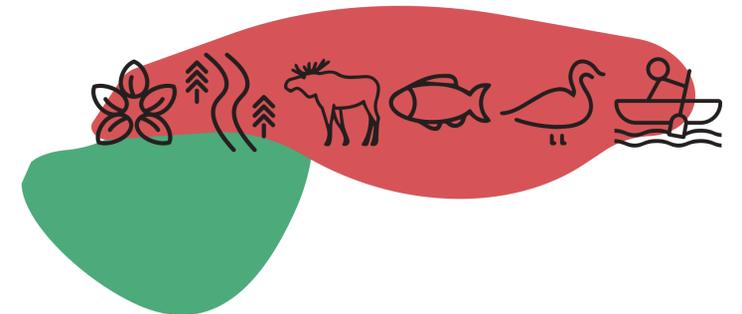


A Holistic Approach to the EA / IA Process

Indigenous Knowledge Program, Indigenous Land and Resource Use and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests



Natural Field Studies



Other Valued Components (i.e., things we are studying. Examples include archaeological and cultural heritage, climate adaptation and resiliency).

COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

Consultation & Engagement



Community Coordinator Program

Social and Health, Land and Resource Use and Economics

Cumulative Effects Assessment



Tell us what you think is most important to understand when planning the Marten Falls Community Access Road!



Natural Science 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 to inform how to best avoid or reduce potential effects during construction and operation on animals and the land.



Conducted from 2019 to 2021

- Air Quality Monitoring (installation and monitoring)
- Bat Acoustic Recording Unit (ARU)
- Caribou Collaring
- Caribou Tracking and Investigations
- Remote Camera (installation and check)
- Surface Water (fall)
- Fish and Fish Habitat (fall)
- Vegetation Surveys
- Aerial Winter Ungulate Survey
- Wolverine Hair Snag Surveys
- Wolverine Denning Survey
- Bird ARU (deployment)



Upcoming in 2022

- Air Quality Monitoring (monitoring)
- Caribou Tracking and Investigations
- Breeding Bird Aerial Survey (spring)
- Aerial Waterfowl Migration Survey (spring and fall)
- Remote Camera (check)
- Surface Water (spring)
- Fish and Fish Habitat (spring)
- Bird ARU (summer and fall)
- Physiography and Terrain Surveys
- Vegetation Surveys
- Groundwater and Geochemistry Program (installation and monitoring)



2023 and Beyond

- Bird ARU (retrieval)
- Wolverine Hair Snag Surveys
- Remote Camera (check and retrieval)
- Groundwater and Geochemistry Program (monitoring)
- Caribou Tracking and Investigations
- Fur Bearer Winter Tracking Survey



Visit our website (martenfallsaccessroad.ca/multimedia) to watch videos about what we're studying and share your feedback through Discussion Guides.



Field Studies - Methods and Early Observations

The Project area crosses multiple watersheds and over 100 waterbodies. These typically drain towards James Bay. Surface water readings and fish and fish habitat assessments are ongoing in the Project area.

Winter snow tracking and motion sensitive camera monitoring are ongoing for furbearers and ungulates, and hair snag surveys are ongoing for wolverine. Thirty wildlife remote cameras were installed in 2021 on active game trails and natural features such as creek banks or habitat edges. The remote cameras have captured various species including wolverine, Canada lynx, gray wolf and pine marten. We have seen caribou in group sizes up to ten animals, including calves, in the Local Study Area during the winter aerial ungulate survey.

Bird indicator data will be collected using a combination of methods including point count surveys, autonomous recording units (ARUs), marsh bird call playback surveys, species-specific surveys, and aerial surveys.

Environmental Monitors from Marten Falls First Nation have been of great assistance to the field teams, providing invaluable knowledge and support.

More data will become available in 2023.



Visit our website (martenfallsaccessroad.ca/multimedia) to watch videos about what we're studying and share your feedback through Discussion Guides.



Visit the map area and provide feedback in the Discussion Guides!



Looking at Social and Health, Land and Resource Use and Economics



Social and Health

- The construction and operation of the Community Access Road could result in social and health effects for some community members.
- Marten Falls First Nation, Aroland First Nation and Greenstone are communities of focus for this assessment.
- Adverse effects could result from things like increased traffic in the area, changes in the population of communities, change in supply / reliance on country foods, increased potential for outsiders to come into communities and increased access to drugs / alcohol.
- The road could also result in positive benefits including potential for better access to health services, education and better connections with friends and family.
- To assess these effects, we will be talking to providers of services (e.g., health care) in the affected communities and to community members to receive their perspectives.
- To meet Gender Based Analysis (GBA+) requirements, we are also interested in speaking to all identity sub-groups that may be present in a community.



Land and Resource Use

- The development of the road could change how the land is being used or could be used in the future.
- This assessment is focused on **non-traditional** use of land including: forestry, mining, use of Parks, recreation activities and energy development.
- Existing land use plans such as Marten Falls Community Based Land Use Plan will be considered.
- The road will remove some of the existing land base and change land access.
- To assess these effects, we are conducting interviews with various land users including: Ontario government agencies, forestry companies, mining companies and various organizations.



Economics

- The development of the road could result in both positive and negative economic effects.
- During the construction period, there will be new job opportunities and contracts for local companies.
- Job training opportunities will be examined / recommended to increase local community member participation in the Project.
- Once the road is operational, it is expected that there will be new business opportunities in the area, including in Marten Falls.
- Potential adverse effects to existing economic activities such as remote tourism outfitters and trapping will also be examined.
- We are conducting interviews with various interests including community Economic Development Officers and Remote Tourism Outfitters.



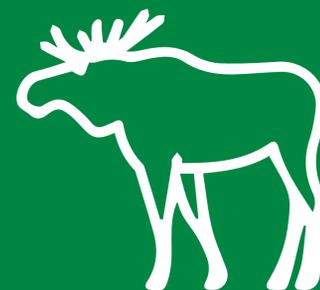
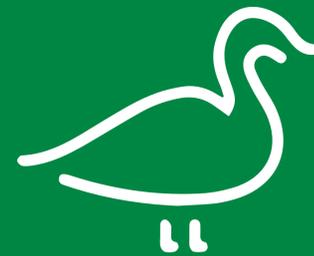
Do you have information to share about social and health, land and resource use and / or economics in the study area?



Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land & Resource Use



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 reduced.



Indigenous Land and Resource Use refers to specific areas and resources used for traditional purposes when Indigenous peoples learn and practice their Indigenous Knowledge (Garvin et al., 2001). This includes the areas and sites used for hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering and the resources harvested, as well as cultural sites, features and practices. Sometimes referred to as Traditional Land Use.



Importance of Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land and Resource Use

To honour and respect Indigenous Knowledge, a Sharing Agreement is being developed with each community who chooses to participate in the Indigenous Knowledge Program. The agreement(s) outlines how confidential and sensitive information will inform the assessment processes and how it will be protected. Funding has also been made available to participating communities. To create a holistic assessment process, Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land and Resource Use is needed to:



Provide an understanding of Aboriginal Rights and Interests related to the Project and to identify potential impacts to Rights.



Better understand the existing environmental conditions.



Inform field programs.



Help to identify and understand Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests.



Identify potential areas or sites that we may need to avoid.



Help predict potential Project effects.



Find ways to avoid or minimize potential Project impacts.



Identify and develop monitoring program.



An Integrated Approach

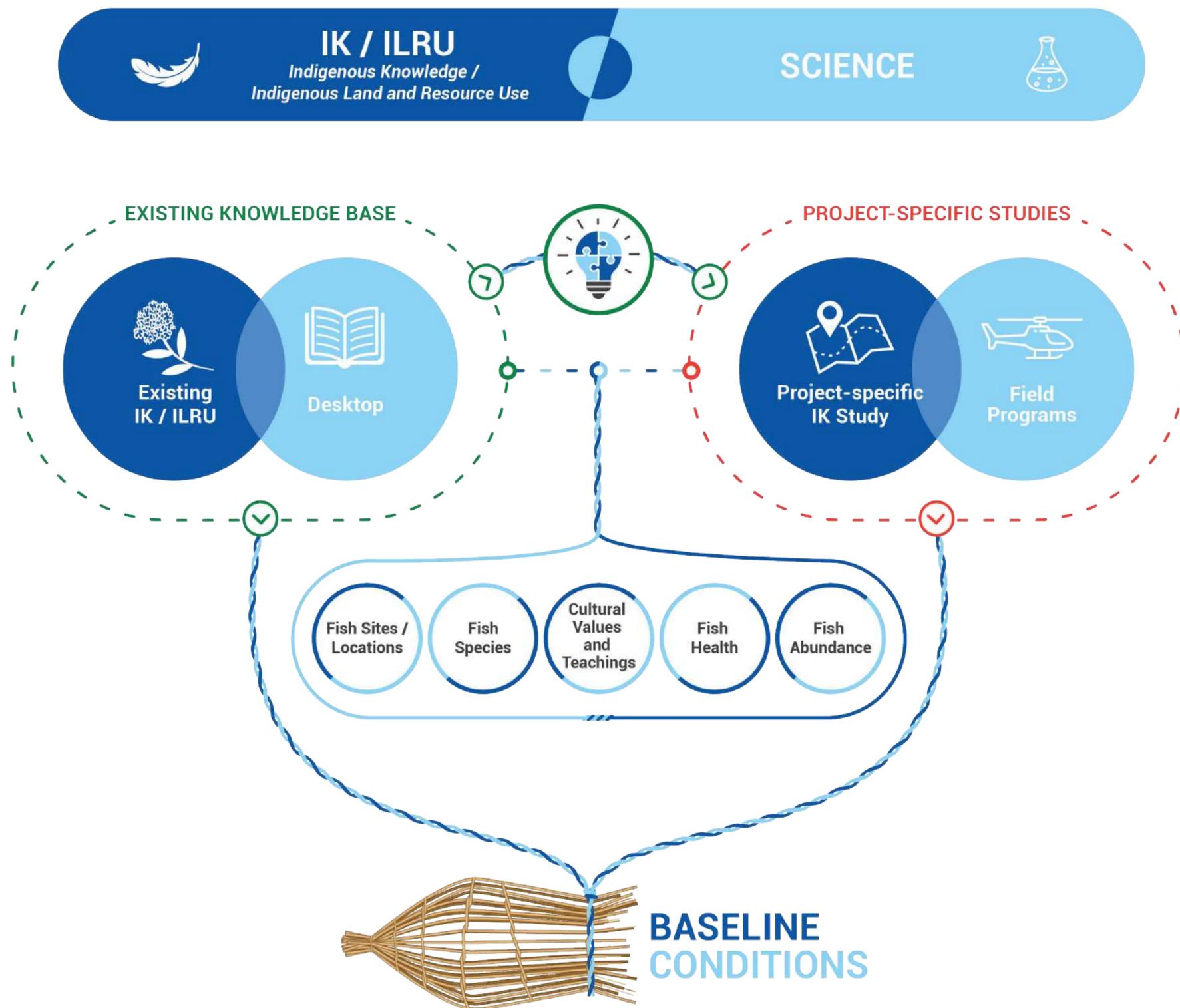
The information generated will be used in tandem with scientific approaches, and both knowledge systems will be used in forming the foundation for baseline conditions, predicting potential Project effects, and determining appropriate mitigation and monitoring methods.

?

Does your community have Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use that you would like to share?

Reach out to book a meeting:

Andrea Nokleby
anokleby@dillon.ca





Understanding Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests

We are striving to work with identified Indigenous Communities to better understand Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests as they relate to the Project area.

Aboriginal Rights are collective rights which flow from Indigenous Peoples' continued use and occupation of certain areas. They are inherent rights which Indigenous peoples have practiced and enjoyed since before European contact.

Treaty Rights are rights set out in a treaty agreement between a First Nation and the Crown. These Rights are recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The Constitution does not define Indigenous Rights under Section 35, but they can include:

- Aboriginal title - ownership rights to land
- Rights to occupy and use lands and resources, such as for hunting and fishing
- Cultural and social rights



?

Are there impacts on Aboriginal or Treaty Rights within the Project area (hunting, trapping, fishing, etc.) we should consider?

Does your community have Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests (hunting, trapping, fishing, etc.)? Reach out to book a meeting:

Andrea Nokleby
anokleby@dillon.ca



Summary of Consultation and Engagement Completed To-Date

Communications

6500+
COMMUNICATIONS LOGGED

1 PROJECT FACEBOOK PAGE; POSTING ON MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION PRIVATE PAGE

1 PLAIN LANGUAGE GUIDE (OJI-CREE AND ENGLISH)

370+
MAILING LIST CONTACTS

14
FIELD NOTICES

10
E-BLASTS

General Engagement

356
VIDEO VIEWS

2 PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES

8 DISCUSSION GUIDES INCLUDING SURVEYS, COVERING 17+ FIELD PROGRAMS

7 VIDEOS ON VALUED COMPONENTS; 11 COMING SOON

3+
CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Indigenous-Specific Engagement

95+ LETTERS EXCHANGED WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, TRIBAL COUNCILS AND PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATIONS

3 LETTERS SENT TO TRAPLINE HOLDERS

MORE THAN 18 IN-PERSON MEETINGS WITH MORE THAN TEN COMMUNITIES INCLUDING MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

20+ VIRTUAL MEETINGS WITH MORE THAN NINE COMMUNITIES

1 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM DELIVERED TO MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

13 INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY COORDINATOR PROGRAM



How would you like to be informed and consulted with during the EA / IA process?

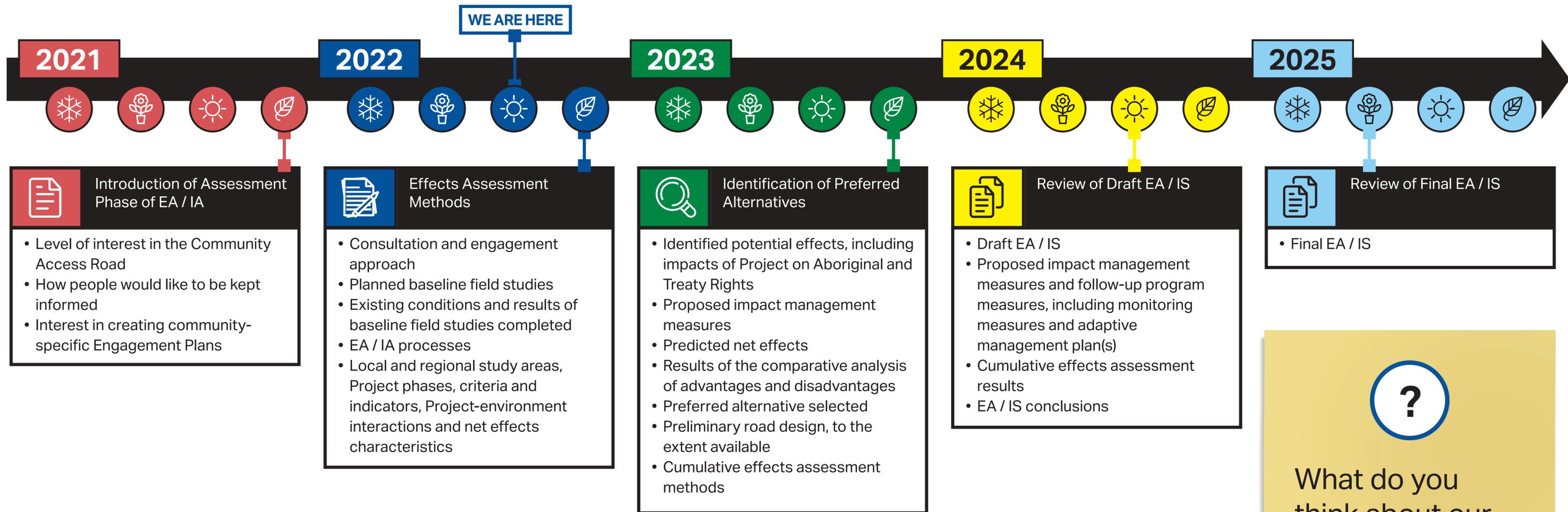
What topics are of most interest to you?

Are you on our mailing list? Would you like to be?



Consultation and Engagement for the EA / IA Process

The following highlights key topics we are requesting input for the EA / IA process:



Legend

= winter
 = spring
 = summer
 = fall
 = Project Milestone Initiated

What do you think about our consultation and engagement plan and approach?



What have we heard?

High level feedback themes we've heard:

Consultation and Engagement

- Request for ongoing consultation and engagement
- Consultation fatigue with other projects going on in the area and requests from different government agencies and proponents

General / Alternative Routes

- Questions and concerns about who would be permitted to use the road and potential to develop along the new road.
- The source of the aggregate required to build and maintain the road

Socio-Economic

- Hope to maximize economic development opportunities for local employment and social opportunities
- Assess the increased hunting and fishing pressure as a result of the road
- Concerns expressed by some remote tourism outfitters that road will increase access and impact their operations

Environmental Effects

- Cumulative or long-term effects
- Effects to wildlife
- Effects to caribou migration
- Effects to peatlands
- Effects on streams, rivers and lakes
- Effects on fisheries
- Effects on moose

Field Studies

- Consideration of water courses and wildlife
- Would like to have findings of field studies shared
- Involvement / review of water related information
- Interest in caribou field study results when they become available

Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land and Resource Use

- How can Indigenous Knowledge and western science be combined?
- Need to engage community Knowledge Keepers

Challenges Communities are Facing During COVID-19

- Emergencies and community crises, due to the pandemic or other ongoing issues
- Inability to bring communities together for in-person events and meetings
- Not enough staff / capacity to help proponents

?

Tell us what you think about the Community Access Road.



Six Month Look-Ahead

- Continue with Natural Field Studies
- Continue with Socio-Economic Studies
- Distributing Engagement Questionnaire to Indigenous communities
- Promotion of Community Coordinator Program to specific Indigenous communities
- Planning meetings with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons (virtual and / or in-person)
- Engaging communities to participate in the Indigenous Knowledge Program
- Seeking feedback on valued component Discussion Guides
- Issue community-specific Progress Milestone Report to Indigenous communities
- Move into Effects Assessment Methodology
- Public Information Centre late fall / early winter





Thank you for joining us! Meegwetch!

Stay Involved

- Your feedback is important. Fill out the survey by July 13, 2022. A paper copy is available at the welcome table or you can fill it out on our website <https://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/get-involved/>
- Join us at the next Public Information Centre in Fall 2022
- Schedule a meeting with us; reach out any time and we can discuss your feedback and answer any questions
- Join our mailing list. Leave your email or address at the welcome table
- Email us at info@martenfallsaccessroad.ca
- Call us at [1-800-764-9114](tel:1-800-764-9114)
- Visit our website www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca
- Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MFFNCommunityAccessRoadProject/>

Thank you for coming!





Share your feedback!

What do you think about the alternative routes?

Tell us what you think is most important to understand when planning the Community Access Road?

Does your community have Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use and / or Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests (hunting, trapping, fishing, etc.)? If so, sign-up to book a meeting with us.

How would you like to be consulted with during the EA / IA Process?

What do you think about the new areas identified to source aggregate and related infrastructure?

Tell us what you think about our Field Studies in the Discussion Guides.

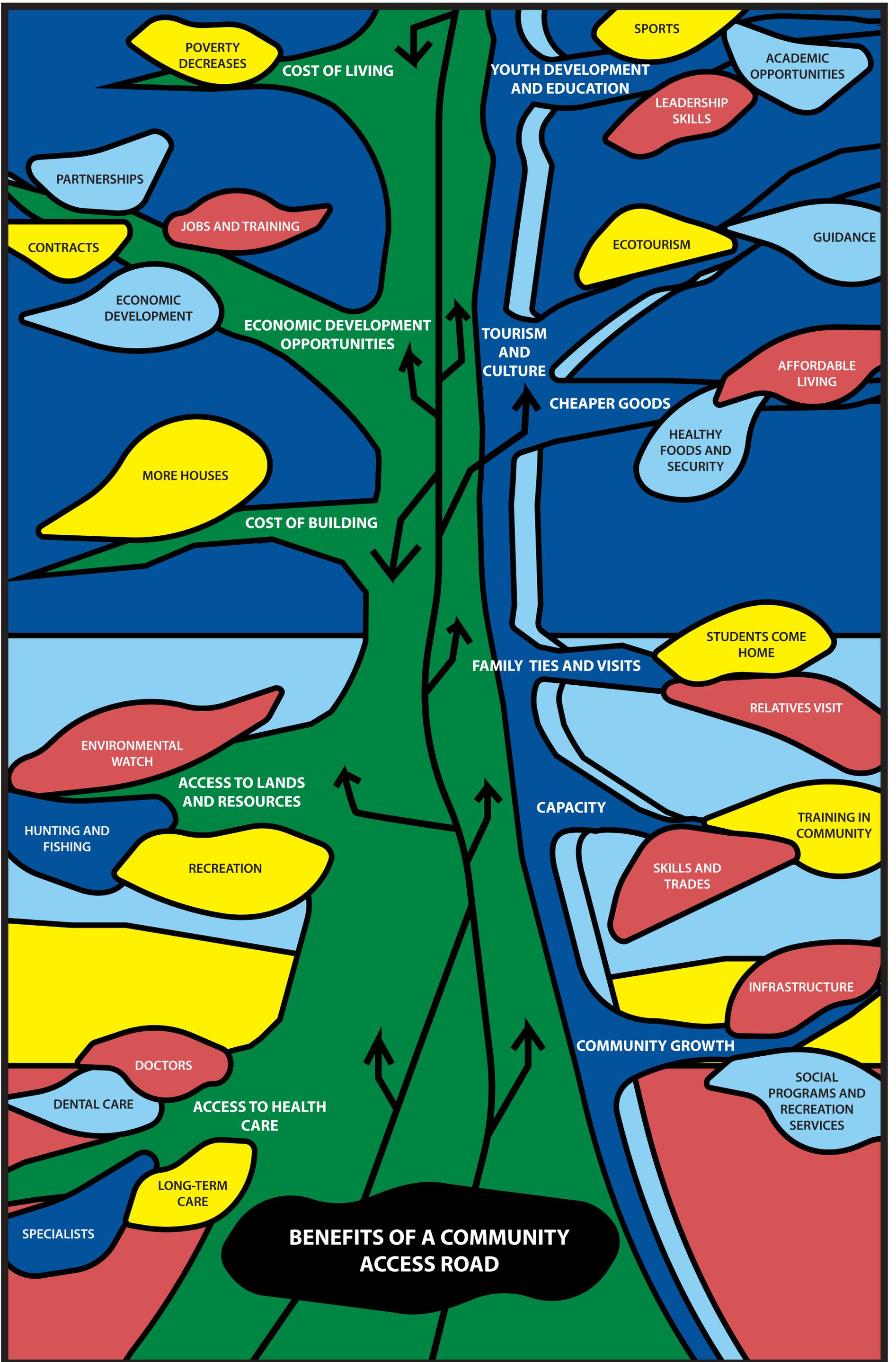
What do you think about our consultation and engagement plan and approach?

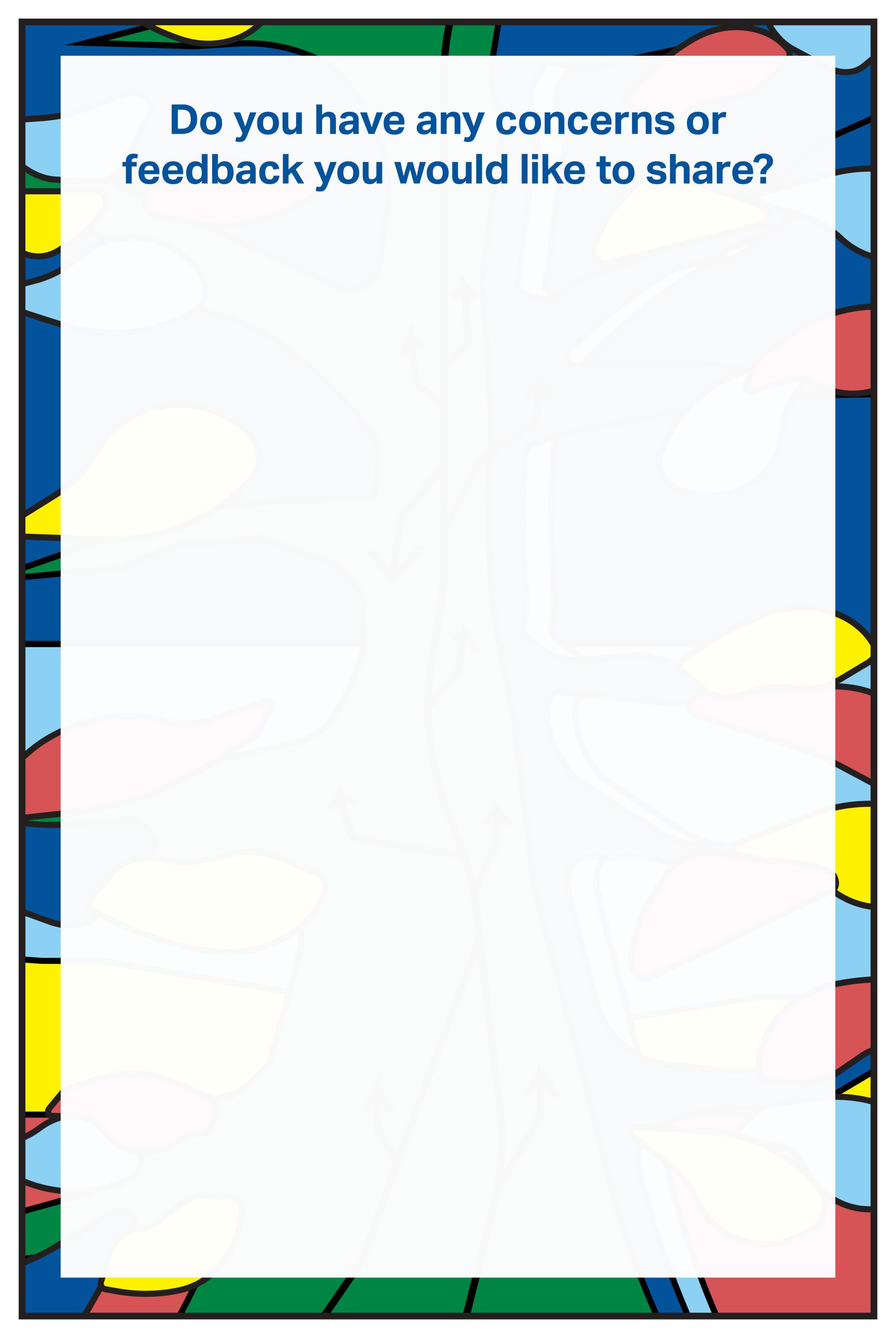
Are there other alternative route evaluation criteria for the EA / IA process you suggest we consider?

Do you have information to share about social and health, land and resource use and / or economics in the study area?

Are there impacts on Aboriginal or Treaty Rights within the Project area (hunting, trapping, fishing, etc.) we should consider?

What topics are of most interest to you?





Do you have any concerns or feedback you would like to share?