



Marten Falls First Nation All Season Community Access Road Public Information Centre #3 Summary Report June 27 and 29, 2022

Timing and Location

Open House Meeting #3A
Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre
Thunder Bay, Ontario
June 27, 2022
5:00pm – 8:00pm

Open House Meeting #3B
Geraldton Recreation Centre
Geraldton, Ontario
June 29, 2022
4:00pm – 7:00pm

This summary report has been prepared to provide a snapshot overview of the feedback captured at Public Information Centre #3 (PIC #3) held on June 27 and 29, 2022.

Introduction / Purpose

This was the first PIC held during the provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) / federal Impact Statement phase (PIC #3) of the Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) All Season Community Access Road. The purpose of PIC #3 was to:

- Provide background information and updates regarding the Community Access Road since the Terms of Reference;
- Provide information related to the EA / Impact Assessment (IA) process;
- Inform the public on study areas, including specific updates made to reflect potential sources of aggregate material;
- Share methods and early observations of field studies, and information on upcoming field studies;
- Share about the Indigenous Knowledge Program and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests;
- Provide an update on how Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons have been involved in the Project to-date and plans for future consultation and engagement, including the Community Coordinator Program;
- Provide updates on the activities that have taken place since PIC #2, and communicate feedback heard to-date and how it is being considered;
- Inform about ongoing and future consultation and engagement opportunities, including how Project content (e.g., discussion guides) can be reviewed and how to share feedback;





- Gather comments, ideas and values related to the Community Access Road; and
- Outline next steps, including the EA / IA schedule.

Notices and Promotion

A formal notice and invitation to PIC #3 was published on the Project website (www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/documents/#notices) on June 13, 2022 in English, Cree, French, Ojibway and Oji-Cree and distributed in print, online and on the radio via multiple outlets, as outlined below. Copies of the formal notice, in each language, are provided in **Appendix A**.

Print Advertisements (see Appendix B1)

- The Chronicle Journal: June 14, 2022
- Geraldton Times Star: June 15, 2022
- Thunder Bay Source: June 16, 2022
- Wawatay News: June 17, 2022

Online Advertisements (see Appendix B2)

- MFFN All Season Community Access Road Project Website (www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/documents/#notices): June 13, 2022
- Greenstone Community Calendar: June 13, 2022
- Northern Ontario Business: June 13, 2022
- NWO NewsWatch: June 13, 2022
- SN NewsWatch: June 13, 2022
- Thunder Bay News Watch: between June 13 and June 27, 2022
- Windspeaker: June 13, 2022
- Anishinabek News: June 14, 2022

Radio Advertisements (see Appendix B3)

- Wawatay Radio: three times per day on June 17, 20-24, and 27, 2022 (in English, Ojibway, and Oji-Cree)
- CFNO Radio, 91-5 CKPR and Rock94 Radio: June 13-26, 2022

The electronic Project mailing list also received the notice on June 13, 2022.





Format and Attendance

Format

PIC #3 was held in an open house format and featured a series of display boards and large printed maps illustrating the study area, route alternatives and locations of field studies completed to-date. MFFN Community Member Advisors, Project Team members and Project Consultants were available to guide attendees through the display boards and answer questions. Attendees were encouraged to review display boards and provide comments using the feedback forms, or by having one-on-one discussions with Project Team members.

The following printed and online materials were made available to attendees:

- Feedback Form;
- Fact Sheet;
- Indigenous Knowledge Program Fact Sheet;
- Community Coordinator Program overview and Job Posting (for Indigenous communities);
- Field Program Discussion Guides for: Remote Camera, Groundwater and Geochemistry Field Program, Surface Water, Fish and Fish Habitat, Vegetation, Physiography and Peatlands, Aerial Waterfowl Field Study, Winter Field Program, Birds and Spring Field Programs;
- Field Notices, including: Terrain and Soils Field Investigation, Surface Water Fish and Habitat, Wolverine Den Surveys and the Early Spring programs; and.
- Maps of: Route Alternatives, Broader Area / neighbouring Indigenous Communities, Aerial Waterfowl Study Area, Bats Study Area, Bird Field Program Study Area; Fish Surface Water Study Area; Groundwater Study Area, Ungulates Study Area, Vegetation Study Area, Wolverine Study Area and Tourism Outfitters.

All engagement materials shared at PIC #3 are included in **Appendix C (C1-C5)**.

Attendance

Approximately **33 individuals** attended PIC #3 (25 attendees in Thunder Bay on June 27, 2022 and eight attendees in Geraldton on June 29, 2022). Attendees included Indigenous community members, provincial and federal agencies, members of the public / local residents, environmental groups and industry representatives.

Paul MacInnis from the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines was present at both events to provide a brief update and assist in answering questions from attendees.





Local Media

One journalist from Wataway News attended PIC #3 in Thunder Bay on June 27, 2022 and conducted interviews with Lawrence Baxter, MFFN Senior Community Member Advisor and Qasim Saddique, MFFN Project Team member.

Highlights of Participant Feedback

Conversations and Feedback Forms

Key items of interest raised by participants are included below. The information was gathered through one-on-one in-person discussions with MFFN Community Advisors Project Team members and feedback received via the online survey, email and telephone until July 22, 2022. The feedback summarized below is not verbatim and is organized by theme. Detailed responses will be provided as a follow-up and sent to the Project's mailing list, uploaded to the website and tracked in the Record of Consultation and Engagement.

Alternative Routes

- An MFFN community member expressed interest in having paved roads instead of gravel.
- An MFFN community member expressed safety concern with the Anaconda Road / Ogoki Road crossing and noted that with more traffic this road intersection could be more dangerous.
- MFFN should be aware that there are forestry roads leading toward Nakina from Painter Lake. These roads can also be used to connect to the highway as an alternative.
- Some participants expressed concern with how the Community Access Road will enter the community.
 - The Project Team explained that different routing options – along the river versus coming in from the north of the community by the airport – were discussed at previous engagements with Marten Falls First Nation.
- Community members noted that there were graves and ceremonial areas in the north and it would be better for the route to align with the river. The Project Team noted the concern with being too close to the Albany River and the importance of consulting the Community Based Land Use Planning documents for guidance on river offsets and Designated Protection Areas (DPA's).
- A participant commented that the routing could follow along recent infrastructure corridors (e.g., the broad band infrastructure that was recently put in). They also noted DPA's for aggregates as well.
- There were requests for further details on the alternative routes and their lengths and locations as well as a timeline for the EA Process. The Project Team referenced the provided large scale maps to show the alternative route lengths and newly identified aggregate sites. The expected timeline for the EA being submitted is summer 2025.
- A request was made to show routing options into MFFN for the next meeting.





EA / IA Process

- MFFN should be in the driver's seat if the access road is built. The community needs to ensure the area and land continues to be taken care of and is respected. It is important to care about the land that is impacted, and not focus on cost / money. MFFN membership act as the stewards of the land and must take care of and protect it.
- A participant asked the Project Team about if they were buying equipment to construct the Community Access Road. The Project Team advised that there will be opportunities for MFFN members to work and offer equipment for rent.
- One participant was concerned about why the Project was taking so long to be completed. The Project Team advised that the provincial EA is a long process due to the size of the Project and potential impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic has also impacted timelines and caused delays, especially to field programs.

Field Studies

- Some participants expressed interest in the field programs being conducted in summer 2022. The Project Team advised that breeding bird aerial surveys, ongoing remote camera programs, physiography, terrain and soils program, ongoing caribou mortality investigation, breeding bird point counts and marsh playback surveys are taking place during summer 2022.
 - Additional Field Study updates include that the 2022 wolverine hair snag program finished in June, the surface water and fish and fish habitat programs and the vegetation program resume in July and that groundwater studies are expected to begin in the fall.
- One participant advised the Project Team that their local company is looking into acquiring houses and accommodations in Geraldton and Red Rock to offer rent to rotation workers. They also expressed the desire to set up an 'Indigenous Transportation Corridor' for Indigenous workers to use when working remotely. The Project Team took the participants contact information for future follow up.

Safety

- There needs to be a focus on safety at crossings as traffic causes potential dangers.

Engagement

- An MFFN community member suggested the Project Team interact with youth more frequently to inspire and motivate, as they will be the generation that constructs the Community Access Road.

Other

- There was a general consensus that community members are happy that the Project is happening and want to see the road built.





- Concerns were expressed that future users of the Community Access Road will not respect the land; garbage is already often found where people camp. A suggestion was made for the Community Access Road to be restricted to avoid littering and hunting issues.
- MFFN community members' interest in trapping and community events are not as popular as before. Youth do not seem to have interest in these activities.
- There was an inquiry about the work camps and what the Land Use Permit (LUP) permitting requirements are.
 - The period is typically 45 days.
- The Project Team clarified that Webequie Supply Road (WSR) and Northern Road Link (NRL) Projects are separate projects. The MFFN Community Access Road Project is not a part of the Ring of Fire Project.

Maps

Participants were invited to view the MFFN Route Alternatives map and share comments and feedback by providing information and updates directly on the maps provided.

Participants shared the following information:

- Important / significant landmarks
- Names to be added to maps for future engagements
- Actively used areas (e.g., for fishing or hunting etc.)
- Feedback on aggregate sites

To view all comments please see full map in Appendix D. Paul MacInnis from the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines wrote a number of comments on the maps which will be shared and verified at the next MFFN community meeting in fall 2022.

Next Steps

Individuals were given the opportunity to provide feedback via the [online survey](#), email (info@martenfallsaccessroad.ca) or telephone (1-800-764-9114) until July 13, 2022, for incorporation into this Summary Report. Over the next six months, the Project Team will:

- Continue with Natural Field Studies;
- Continue with Socio-Economic Studies;
- Distribute engagement questionnaires to Indigenous communities;
- Promote the Community Coordinator Program to Indigenous communities;
- Host planning meetings with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons (virtual and / or in-person);
- Engage communities to participate in the Indigenous Knowledge Program;





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- Seek feedback on valued component Discussion Guides;
- Issue community-specific Progress Milestone Reports to Indigenous communities;
- Begin the Effects Assessment Methodology; and
- Hold a PIC in late fall / early winter 2022.

