



Existing Conditions Fact Sheet: Cultural Heritage

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This Cultural Heritage Assessment documents heritage features (both built and natural) that are relevant to local communities, and reflects the Indigenous and / or European history in the area.

Our Studies

Our studies looked at the cultural heritage features that are close to the footprint of the proposed routes, plus an additional 5 km buffer (called the Local Study Area) along the proposed routes options and segments to determine the direct impacts, and a further 1 km buffer (called the Regional Study Area) to determine the indirect impacts of the Community Access Road.

The Regional Study Area falls predominantly within the shared traditional territory of Marten Falls First Nation and other Matawa First Nation Communities, including the Aroland First Nation. These traditional lands extend from the Current River and Ogoki Lake in the south, Makokibaton Lake in the west, Jasper Lake and Muketei Rivers to the north and the Albany Forks to the east. Marten Falls Indian Reserve 65, also referred to as Ogoki Post, is a remote Indigenous community in northwestern Ontario only accessible year-round by air or for 6-8 weeks in the winter by an ice road.

The Study Area also includes the traditional territories of Aroland First Nation (comprised of former members of Long Lake #58, Ginoogaming, Eabametoong, Marten Falls, and Fort William First Nations). Aroland First Nation is an Ojibway and Oji-Cree band located on the Kowkash River. Located approximately 70 km west of the Study Area, Eabametoong First Nation (also known as Fort Hope) is an Anishinaabe community located on the north shore of Eabamet Lake.



Study Areas

Study areas identify the geographic limit where potential effects of the road may occur. The existing conditions are documented for three study areas:

- Project Development Area (PDA): the area of direct disturbance
- Local Study Area (LSA): the area where direct effects of the road are likely to take place
- Regional Study Area (RSA): the area where indirect effects are likely to occur





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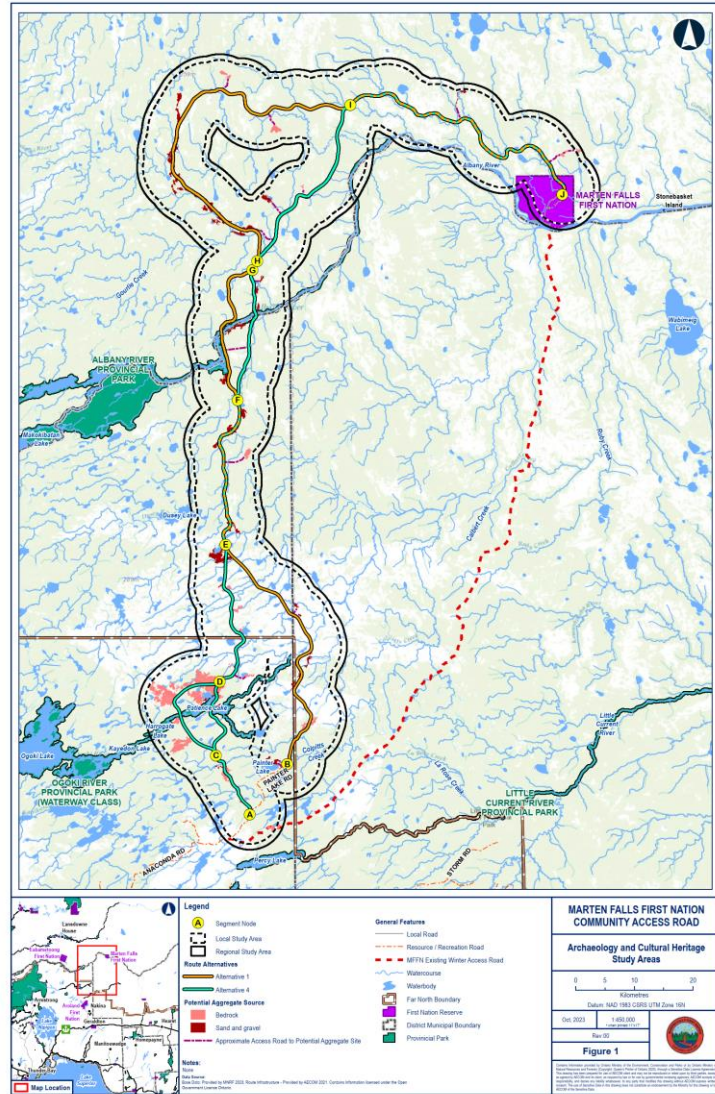
The Eabametoong reserve was set aside for the Fort Hope Band during the signing of Treaty No. 9 in 1905, which originally included Neskantaga, Nibinamik, and Webequie First Nations.

Our Findings

The Regional Study Area is dominated by wetlands of the Albany River watershed and several of its sub-watersheds. The Albany and Ogoki River systems have both been altered from their original state because of hydroelectric development activity in the region between 1943 and 1950 respectively. Watercourses in the area provided important historical travel routes.

Within the community of Marten Falls, major structures and features include the MFFN Band Office, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service detachment station (presently under construction), the community school, and Pow-Wow Grounds. Two large water reservoirs are located at the eastern end of the community. The Ogoki Post airport is located approximately 3.7 km northwest of the MFFN community and is connected to the community by a gravel road. A boat launch is located in the southeast area of the community, and dock is located to the west, both providing access to the Albany River.

The topography of Marten Falls is generally flat, with sparse tree coverage. The topography of the area north of the airport is considerably hillier than the remainder of the community. The tree cover in this area is considerably more dense than other areas of the community.





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Within the Regional Study area, there are 231 culturally significant locations. They include:

- 204 animal, fish, and plant harvesting areas.
 - Animal harvesting includes: hunting black bear, moose, caribou, deer, geese, partridge, and ptarmigan; and, trapping beaver, muskrat, and rabbit.
 - Fish harvesting includes fishing and spawning areas, and stone weirs.
 - Plant harvesting includes species such as Wild Blueberries, Strawberries and Gooseberries. It also includes tree species including Cedar, Aspen, Poplar, Jack Pine, and Tamarack.
- 73 cultural, spiritual, and sacred areas.
 - These include: traditional gathering areas; sacred and spiritual sites; birth, death, and burial sites and cemeteries; and, Euro-Canadian historical sites such as trading posts and the site where Treaty No. 9 was signed in 1905.
- 129 habitation areas.
 - These include: cabin and campsite locations; tourist camps; the location of the original Marten Falls settlement and fort; historical villages; and, areas associated with early European trade and settlement.
- 23 travel and transportation routes.
 - These include: portage routes; skidoo / snowmobile trails and winter roads; and, the Albany and Ogoki Rivers and waterways.

Contact Information

You are welcome to contact the Project Team at any time with questions or comments.

1-800-764-9114 | info@martenfallsaccessroad.ca www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca
www.facebook.com/MFFNCommunityAccessRoadProject