



Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road

Indigenous Communities Communication Plan

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1 Introduction

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN), also known as Ogoki or Ogoki Post, is a remote First Nation community in northwestern Ontario located at the confluence of the Albany and Ogoki Rivers, approximately 430 km northeast of Thunder Bay. The Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road (MFFNCAR) Project consists of the pre-construction activities and construction of an approximately 184 km all-season access road connecting the community to the Ontario provincial highway network (Figure 1). The Project includes a two-lane gravel road within a new right-of-way (ROW), with a design speed of 80 km/h and a cleared ROW width of approximately 60 m.

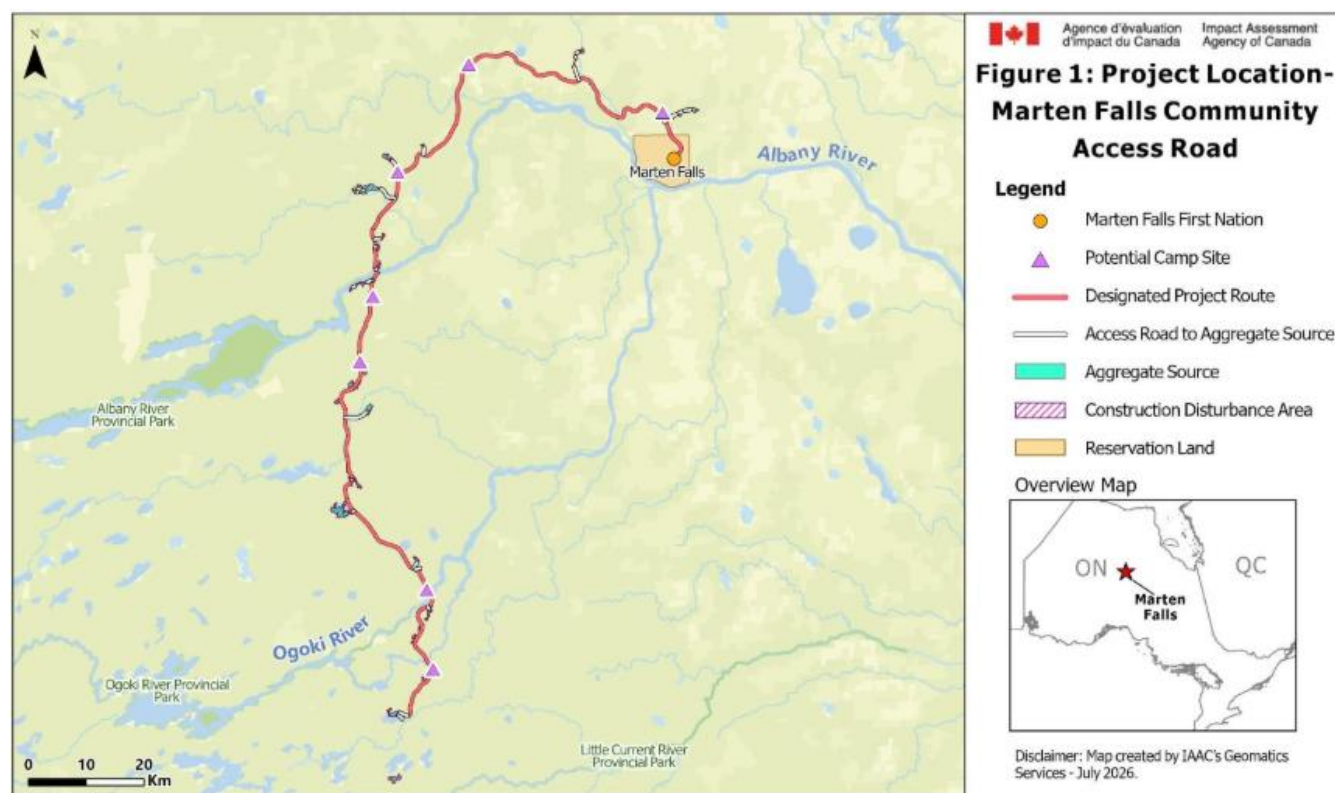


Figure 1. Project Location and Key Components

2 Purpose

The purpose of this Indigenous Communities Communication Plan (the “Plan”) is to establish a clear and consistent process for sharing information with Indigenous communities on adverse environmental effects of the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project (the “Project”) activities in relation to structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, and on sites used for traditional purposes including hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting.



The Plan is developed and will be implemented throughout the construction phase to fulfill Condition 7.3 established in the Decision Statement (approval) issued under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IA Act) for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project on August 31, 2026. Condition 7.3 states:

7.3 The Proponent shall develop, prior to construction and in consultation with Indigenous groups and relevant authorities, an Indigenous Communities Communication Plan to share information with Indigenous groups on adverse federal effects of Designated Project activities as they relate to impacts on structures, sites or things of historical, archeological, paleontological or architectural significance, and on sites currently used for traditional purposes including hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting sites of importance to Indigenous groups, including as a result of potential accidents and malfunctions. The Proponent shall implement and maintain the Plan during all phases of the Designated Project. The Indigenous Communities Communication Plan shall include:

7.3.1 when and how Indigenous groups would be notified of the impacts referred to in condition 7.3; and

7.3.2 opportunities for Indigenous groups to assist with the measures implemented to mitigate the impacts referred to in condition 7.3.

The Indigenous Communities Communication Plan is intended to support effective information sharing between the Proponent, Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and potentially affected Indigenous communities. In implementing the Plan, MFFN's unique role as both the Proponent and an Indigenous community whose members, traditional lands, cultural sites, and traditional use activities may be affected by the Project will be recognized. Communications involving MFFN community members will respect MFFN's governance structures, community protocols, and established internal communication processes.

2.1 Objectives

The objectives of this Plan are to:

- Ensure compliance with Condition 7.3 of Decision Statement under the IA Act;
- Ensure Indigenous communities receive timely information and are informed about adverse environmental effects;
- Establish clear notification triggers and timelines; and
- Provide opportunities for Indigenous communities to assist with measures implemented for mitigation of impacts identified in Condition 7.3.



2.2 Scope

This Plan applies to all pre-construction and construction-related activities within the Construction Disturbance Area and Local Study Area (LSA), including:

- Vegetation clearing and grubbing;
- Excavation and grading;
- Aggregate extraction and blasting; and
- Construction of road, bridges, culverts and associated supportive infrastructure (e.g., construction camps).

Construction Disturbance Area is the area of direct disturbance from the construction and operation of the Community Access Road. The following activities are expected to take place exclusively within this area: the Project footprint (the linear road corridor) roadway clearing and the construction of bridges, laydown areas, worker camps, pits and quarries, and associated temporary and permanent access roads. There is an overall 100-metre-wide right-of-way associated with the Community Access Road for the approved preferred alternative and 60 meters of that ROW will be cleared for construction.

Local Study Area (LSA) is the area where potential direct and indirect effects of the MFCAR are likely to occur and can be predicted or measured for assessment. The LSA extends **2.5 km on either side of the centreline** of the proposed road corridors.

2.3 Regulatory Context

This Plan is developed to comply with Condition 7.3 of the Decision Statement under the IA Act.

2.4 Roles and Responsibilities

Community Relations Leads

- Issues notifications to Indigenous communities;
- Communicates information about impacts and invites Indigenous groups to participate in measures implemented for assessment and mitigation;
- Coordinates participation of impacted Indigenous groups in these measures and follow-up;
- Communicates with Indigenous groups on cultural appropriateness of mitigation approaches;
- Maintains the Communication Log; and
- Updates this Plan as required throughout the life of the Project.
- Coordinates and supports Indigenous community participation and follow-up activities, recognizing that communities may have varying levels of administrative and technical capacity and may require different levels of support to facilitate meaningful participation.

Environmental Monitors

- Construction oversight to ensure compliance with Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA/IA) commitments, conditions, regulations, permits.

Construction Manager (TBD)



- Implementation of environmental mitigation measures including, but not limited to, erosion and sediment control, flagging of no work zones for environmental protection, and limited work during specific timing windows at designated locations; and
- Provides information on timing of construction activities.

Indigenous Communities

- Participate in assisting with the measures implemented to mitigate impacts, where opportunities exist.

3 Notification of Indigenous Groups

This section establishes when and how Indigenous groups will be notified of the adverse environmental effects identified in condition 7.3. The following table sets out the notification triggers and timing requirements that apply across all types of impacts covered by this Plan, including those arising from accidents and malfunctions.

Table 1. Triggers for notification of Indigenous Groups

Notification Trigger	Timing
Discovery of a previously unidentified archaeological, paleontological or heritage site during Project activities	Within 24 hours of discovery; all work in the affected area stops immediately
Disturbance or damage to a known or identified heritage site or structure during Project activities	Within 24 hours of confirmed disturbance
Planned Project activities that may affect access to or use of a traditional use site, including hunting, fishing, trapping or harvesting areas	Provided as regular updates when Project moves to a new area
Temporary restriction or closure of a traditional use area due to Project activities (e.g., noise, dust, equipment presence, access restriction)	Minimum 5 business days prior where planned; as soon as feasible where unplanned, with written follow-up within 24 hours
Planned Project activities in proximity to a known heritage site that may result in adverse effects	Minimum 5 business days prior to the activity
Change to Project design, routing or activity scheduling that may affect a known heritage site or traditional use area, including during sensitive seasons	Prior to implementation of the change



Notification Trigger	Timing
The Proponent is unable to designate a site or area identified by an Indigenous group as having historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance as a “no-work” zone	Within 30 days of denial of designation
Accident or malfunction that results in, or poses a risk of, adverse effects on a heritage site or traditional use site	Once the accident or malfunction has been identified or as soon as feasible; pursuant to Conditions 7.3 and 9.4.2
Results of water quality monitoring confirmed to exceed the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment’s <i>Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life</i> as a result of the Project.	Within 30 days of confirmed exceedances
Interruptions to waterway navigation due to in-water works.	Minimum 24 hours before in-water works occur
Results of air quality and noise monitoring confirmed to exceed human health thresholds for air contaminants, including thresholds in the <i>Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards</i> or <i>Ontario’s Ambient Air Quality Criteria</i> , whichever is more protective of human health, or noise thresholds	Within 30 days of confirmed exceedances

3.1 Notification Methods

Prior to construction, the Community Relations Leads will confirm with each Indigenous group their designated primary and alternate contacts, preferred notification method, and any community-specific communication protocols. This information will be recorded in Attachment 1, below, and updated as required throughout the life of the Project.

Notification will be delivered using email, as well as any method identified by each Indigenous community. In emergency situations arising from accidents or malfunctions, the fastest available means of contact will be used regardless of standard preference.

3.2 Content of Notifications

All notifications issued under this Plan will include:

- Description of the heritage site or traditional use area affected, including location where appropriate;
- Nature of the adverse effect, its cause and the Project activity involved;



- Duration and geographic extent of the effect or restriction, where known;
- Any immediate protective measures, work stoppages or emergency response actions already in place;
- Contact information for the Community Relations Lead; and
- An invitation for the affected Indigenous communities to identify whether and how they wish to participate in relevant mitigation activities.

Where an adverse effect arises from an accident or malfunction, the notification will also reference the Proponent's "Accidents and Malfunctions Response Plan" for the Project. Following an initial emergency notification, the Proponent will provide a written close-out notice confirming the mitigation measures implemented and any residual effects.

Where the notification is triggered by an exceedance of air, water, or noise thresholds, monitoring results will be made available to Indigenous groups as soon as feasible.

4 Mitigation Measures

This section establishes how Indigenous groups may assist with the measures implemented to mitigate the impacts identified in Condition 7.3. The Proponent recognizes that Indigenous groups hold knowledge of their territories, cultural sites and traditional use areas that is essential to effective mitigation.

Prior to construction, the Community Relations Lead(s) will correspond with each group's designated contact to confirm which participation opportunities the group wishes to engage in and identify relevant community members, Elders, or Knowledge Keepers. Participation will be undertaken in accordance with the protocols identified by the respective communities. Agreed arrangements will be documented in the Communication Log.

4.1 Mitigation and Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Sites

Where Project activities have adverse effects on structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, Indigenous groups may participate in any of the following, where appropriate:

- Contributing oral history, Traditional Knowledge and community records to inform mitigation;
- Recommending culturally appropriate mitigation measures;
- Reviewing and providing input on heritage impact assessments and mitigation reports prepared by qualified archaeologist individuals.

Procedures and mitigation for protecting and managing previously unidentified structures or sites of historical, archaeological, or cultural heritage significance should they encountered during construction of the Project are described in detail in the Proponent's "Chance Find Protocol", referenced under condition 7.2.



4.2 Mitigation and Traditional Use Sites

Where Project activities have adverse effects on sites currently used for traditional purposes and where that information is shared with the proponent, Indigenous groups may participate in any of the following, where appropriate and where a response for participation, if any, is received within the timeframe provided in the notification:

- Identifying the boundaries, seasonal use patterns and culturally significant features of traditional use sites to inform mitigation;
- Reviewing activity scheduling to minimize disruption during sensitive seasons, including spawning, migration, hunting and harvest periods; and
- Recommending site-specific access management, buffer zones or activity restrictions to protect ongoing traditional use where the Project can accommodate the recommendations.

4.3 Participation in Response to Accidents and Malfunctions

Following an accident or malfunction with potential to affect heritage sites or traditional use areas, Indigenous groups may participate in:

- Contributing knowledge of heritage or traditional use areas to the MFCAR emergency response coordinator (the role of which will vary by incident type, as described in the Accidents and Malfunctions Plan Table 2-1);
- Ongoing two-way information sharing between MFCAR's emergency response team and affected Indigenous communities, facilitated by the Community Relations Leads;
- Advising on emergency containment, access control or protective measures from an Indigenous and cultural knowledge perspective;
- Identifying additional heritage sites or traditional use areas within the potential impact area that require protective action; and
- Post-incident monitoring to assess the extent of effects and contributing to the development of additional mitigation measures.

Procedures and mitigation for addressing potential accidents and malfunctions related to the Project are described in detail in the Proponent's "Accidents and Malfunctions Response Plan".

5 Documentation, Tracking, and Reporting

- All notifications and mitigation participation activities under this Plan will be recorded in a Communication Log, using the template provided in Attachment 2;
- The Communication Log will be maintained throughout all phases of the Designated Project and retained at a facility in Canada for 25 years, consistent with conditions 2.21 and 2.22, and will be made available to IAAC upon request;
- A summary of all communication and mitigation participation activities during each reporting year will be included in the Proponent's Annual Report to IAAC pursuant to conditions 2.9 and



2.10, including how Indigenous views and knowledge received under this Plan were considered (condition 2.9.3); and

- Any updates to this Plan will be summarized in the Annual Report pursuant to condition 2.9.7.
- Pursuant to condition 2.12, Indigenous groups shall be notified of the availability of annual reports and the executive summaries referred to in conditions 2.9 and 2.10, Project schedules referred to in conditions 2.18 and 2.19, the accidents and malfunctions response plan referred to in condition 9.12, and any update or revision to the above documents, within 3 days of their publication.

We also note that any information flagged and clearly identified as sensitive Indigenous Knowledge or culturally sensitive information received through implementation of this Plan will be documented, stored, used and shared in accordance with applicable community protocols and any confidentiality requirements established with the Indigenous community. Information identified as sensitive information will not be reproduced in the Communication Log unless authorized by the community or shared directly by the community with any regulator.

6 Follow-up and Adaptive Management

- Procedures described in this Plan will be periodically reviewed during construction;
- Feedback from Indigenous communities, monitors, and regulatory authorities will be incorporated and these parties will be informed of material changes resulting from their feedback; and
- Adjustments will be made as necessary to improve effectiveness.



7 Attachment 1 – Contact Information

7.1 Project Team

(To be completed prior to construction)

Contact	Contact Information
Environmental Director	
Community Relations Lead(s)	
Construction Manager	
Environmental Monitor(s)	
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	

7.2 Indigenous Communities

(To be completed with Indigenous communities)

Indigenous Group	Designated Contact / Title	Email / Phone	Community Protocols / Notes



8 Attachment 2 – Communications Log

Log ID	Date/ Time (sent)	Date/ Time (received/ acknowledged)	Indigenous Community	Contact Person/ Title	Communication Method	Notification Trigger	Project Activity/ Context	Location	Type of Impact/ Issue	Summary of Communication	Mitigation Measures Communicated	Request for Participation	Community Response	Indigenous Knowledge/ Input Received	Agreed Actions/ Commitments	Follow-up Required	Follow-up Due Date	Follow-up Status	Responsible Person	Attachments/ References	Notes