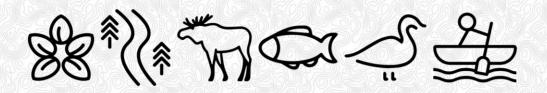


**DRAFT** 

# **Progress Report 2: Effects Assessment Methods Milestone**

November 2023



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## **Authors**

#### **Report Prepared By:**

#### Insert electronic signature

Kate McEwen , M.A. Senior Indigenous Engagement Specialist AECOM Canada Ltd.

#### **Report Reviewed By:**

#### Insert electronic signature

Ingrid Trimble Exner, P.Eng. Environmental Engineer AECOM Canada Ltd.

#### Insert electronic signature

Joanne Wang, M.E.S., MCIP, RPP Senior Environmental Planner AECOM Canada Ltd.

#### **Report Approved By:**

#### Insert electronic signature

Avril Fisken, M.Sc.
Canadian Practice Lead
Communications and Community Engagement
Associate Vice President, Environment
AECOM Canada Ltd



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#### **Acronyms**

ATRI..... Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests AZA ...... Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation CAR ...... Community Access Road CBLUP ...... Community Based Land Use Planning CCC ...... Community Consultation Co-ordinator CCLO ...... Community Communications Liaison Officer CEAA ...... Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency DFO ...... Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada EA ..... Environmental Assessment EAA..... Environmental Assessment Act ECCC..... Environment and Climate Change Canada ENDM ...... Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines GANRAC...... Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee GRT ...... Government Review Team IA..... Impact Assessment IAA ..... Impact Assessment Act IK..... Indigenous Knowledge IKSA...... Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreement IS..... Impact Statement LSA ..... Local Study Area MECP...... Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks MFFN ..... Marten Falls First Nation MHSTCI ...... Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries MNO..... Métis Nation of Ontario MNRF...... Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry MOU..... Memorandum of Understanding MTCS...... Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport MTO ..... Ministry of Transportation Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry NDMNRF ..... NoC...... Notice of Commencement Northern Road Link NRL..... OPP ...... Ontario Provincial Police PIC ..... Public Information Centre RoCE ...... Record of Consultation and Engagement RSA..... Regional Study Area RSMIN ..... Red Sky Métis Independent Nation SAR..... Species at Risk The Agency ..... Impact Assessment Agency of Canada TISG...... Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Terms of Reference ToR ..... WSR..... Webequie Supply Road

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) Community Access Road (CAR or the Project) was approved with amendments on October 8, 2021 and the Notice of Commencement (NoC) of the provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project was posted on October 29, 2021. As part of the ToR Notice of Approval, Ontario's Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) included an amendment requiring additional consultation reporting at key EA milestones. Visit <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/marten-falls-community-access-road-project">https://www.ontario.ca/page/marten-falls-community-access-road-project</a> to read the details on the Notice of Approval.

As required by the Minister of MECP, the development of progress reports on consultation activities associated with each of the following EA milestones are required to support Indigenous communities to provide meaningful input during the development of the EA:

- Notice of Commencement (NoC) of Provincial EA (referred to as NoC of EA);
  - Introduction of the Project.
- Effects Assessment Methods; and
  - Development of Effects Assessment methodology, as well as review by regulators.
  - Presentation of Effects Assessment methodology at PICs .
- Identification of Preferred Alternatives.
  - Development of valued component metrics tables and evaluation of information
  - Development of preliminary preferred alternative
  - Validation of information with Marten Falls First Nation Chief and Council and community members.
  - Confirmation of the preferred alternative.

Each progress report is required to:

- Be organized by each Indigenous community;
- Contain a consultation log and summary that tracks consultation activities, information shared by the MFFN CAR Project Team with Indigenous communities, any community input and MFFN CAR Project Team's responses to such input for the EA milestone; and
- Contain a discussion of how any input and information provided by the Indigenous communities have informed the development of the EA milestone.

The progress reports are to be shared with MECP, with community-specific sections shared with each individual Indigenous community before MFFN can move to the next milestone of the EA / IA. If questions or concerns are raised by MECP or an Indigenous community, the MFFN CAR Project Team will make revisions to the progress reports, if necessary, and encourage opportunities to meet in-person or virtually to discuss with the interested community.

This report is the second progress report and pertains to activities related to both the EA and IA processes. The time period begins the day after the first progress report concluded July 1, 2022 and ends May 31, 2023. The Effects Assessment Methods milestone is expected to extend past May 31, 2023, however, due to the time to develop this report, any information missed during this phase will be included in the next progress report for Identification of Preferred Alternatives which is expected to begin in fall 2023.

The final progress reports will be appended, along with any relevant updates, to the Record of Consultation and Engagement submitted with the draft and final EA / IS.

This progress report provides a detailed account of all communication exchanged with the MFFN CAR Project Team and neighbouring Indigenous communities from July 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023 as part of the Effects Assessment Methods milestone. Note that government agencies and interested persons<sup>1</sup> are not included in progress reports, however, their sections will be included in the Record of Consultation and Engagement for the draft and final EA / IS. **Section 1.5** includes details about the neighbouring Indigenous communities.

The first section of this progress report provides an overview of the Project and outline of the approach to consultation and engagement, the second section describes the consultation and engagement activities undertaken during this time period, and the third section summarizes activities and discussions that occurred with the MFFN CAR Project Team and neighbouring Indigenous communities.

# 1.2 About the Progress Report

This progress report provides an overview of consultation and engagement carried out between the NoC of EA and after PIC #3 (July 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023). In accordance with the MECP Code of Practice, the progress report has been prepared to:

- Identify Indigenous communities consulted and engaged during this time period and describe how they were identified (confidential information will not be provided);
- Describe the consultation and engagement activities that took place including methods, schedule of events, notification that was given about the activity and materials used;
- Describe how interested Indigenous communities were identified and how they were consulted;
- Summarize clearly and accurately the comments made by all Indigenous communities;
- Describe the Proponent's response and how concerns were considered in the NoC of EA milestone or will be considered and / or addressed in the EA / IS;
- Describe any outstanding concerns; and
- Include appendix reference to minutes of any meetings held and written comments received.

Logistical correspondence (e.g., scheduling a meeting) has not been included in the appendices but has been tracked separately. The only instance when logistical correspondence has been included as an appendix is when a meeting was not scheduled or was postponed; this information is included to show level of effort.

### 1.3 Approach

As outlined in the Consultation and Engagement Plan to Support the EA / IS (Appendix B of the ToR), the Effects Assessment Methods milestone was focused on the following activities and request for targeted input:

#### Planned Activities for Indigenous communities:

- Circulate Notice of Public Information Centres (PIC)
- Engagement of Community Consultation Co-ordinators, as appropriate and by expressed community interest

<sup>1.</sup> Interested persons is used to describe individuals and groups (e.g., associations, non-government organizations, industry and academia) who could have an interest in the Project, including but not limited to communities in the region, those with commercial interests (e.g., forestry, trappers, outfitters, other mineral tenure holders in the area) and recreational users or those with recreational interest (e.g., campers, hunters and environmental groups).

- Hold Indigenous leadership and community discussions / meetings, considering applicable and relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders)
- Additional PICs (in-person / or virtual)
- Plain language Project updates (translated, as required)
- Key informant interviews
- Website update
- Newsletter and email update(s)
- Social media update(s)
- Follow-up communication to confirm information was received and the material(s) provided were understood

#### Targeted Input (request information to determine and identify):

- Indigenous community values and topics of interest
- Potential effects and impact management measures to be considered
- Impacts of Project on Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and potential impact management measures to avoid, mitigate and off-set the impact(s)
- Seek confirmation whether input and feedback provided during the previous milestone was captured appropriately

The following additional activities and request for targeted input took place during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone, including:

#### ■ PIC #4: EA / IS Phase #1 Introduction

An in-person PIC (with supporting virtual materials) for the Effects Assessment Methods Milestone took place on Wednesday December 7, 2022 in Thunder Bay and on Thursday, December 8, 2022 in Geraldton. Indigenous community members were invited to attend for the first hour of each meeting and stay for the remainder of the event; the public was invited to join during the second hour of the event.

PIC #4 provided information on: an overview to the Project; updates since PIC #3; existing conditions results for completed studies, assessment of impacts and comparison of route alternatives; preliminary results of field studies and information on upcoming field studies; IK and ATRI; effects assessment; achieving the next major milestone: process for identifying the preferred route and how route alternatives will be assessed, recommended and a preferred route chosen.

PIC #4 content, including opportunities for feedback, was also provided to MFFN members at an incommunity meeting on November 2, 2022; feedback provided is included in MFFN's section in **Section 3**. More details about the summary of consultation and engagement for PIC #4 are provided in **Section 1.7**.

#### Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program

An important part of the assessment process is collecting IK and information on Indigenous land and resource use to help understand baseline (existing) conditions, predict the potential effects of the Project, and determine appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures. The IK Program was developed with the aim to collect IK relevant to the Project and information on Indigenous land and resource use in the vicinity of the Project area. The IK Program strives to collaborate with interested Indigenous communities and to discuss how relevant information will become part of the assessment processes and Project planning and design. During this reporting time period, an update on the Project IK Program with an updated schedule and timeline was distributed to Indigenous communities. Ongoing follow-up regarding the IK Program also took place.

An ATRI Forum was held in Thunder Bay on February 8 and 9, 2023, with the Province offering to fund 2-3 participants from each Indigenous community to attend the event in person. The forum provided a private

and inclusive space for representatives of Indigenous communities to meet with representatives from the Province and the Project Teams for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road, Northern Road Link and Webequie Supply Road.

#### Field Studies and Education, Consultation and Engagement on Valued Components

Several field programs took place during the NoC of EA milestone. To help Indigenous communities better understand the field studies related to valued components, Discussion Guides were distributed with plain language information about what the Project is studying, why it is important and questions to solicit feedback before the studies take place. Educational videos and webinars on valued components were also shared online.

#### Raising Awareness

Several activities were completed related to raising awareness on the Project and encouraging opportunities to meet with the MFFN CAR Project Team. Monthly electronic newsletters were distributed (referred to as E-Blasts) and always included a section seeking those interested to reach out and schedule a meeting with the MFFN CAR Project Team, a public social media account was created and the private MFFN members only Facebook account was used to share information and promote upcoming events.

## 1.4 Project Notifications and Information Releases

A formal notice and invitation to PIC #4 was published on the Project website (<a href="www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/documents/#notices">www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/documents/#notices</a>) on November 22, 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 A7.

#### Print Advertisements:

- The Chronicle Journal: November 22, 2022
- Geraldton Times Star: November 23, 30 and December 7, 2022
- Thunder Bay Source: November 24 and December 1, 2022

#### Online Advertisements

- MFFN All Season Community Access Road Project Website (www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/documents/#notices): November 22, 2022
- MFFN CAR Facebook page: November 23, December 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2022
- MFFN members only Facebook page: December 1, 6, 7 and 8, 2022
- Greenstone Community Calendar: November 23, 2022
- Northern Ontario Business: November 22, 2022
- NWO NewsWatch: November 22, 2022
- SN NewsWatch: November 22, 2022
- Thunder Bay News Watch: November 23 December 9, 2022
- Windspeaker: November 29 December 9, 2022

#### Radio Advertisements

- Wawatay Radio: three times per day on November 29, 30, December 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7, 2022 (in English, Ojibway, and Oji-cree)
- CFNO Radio, 91-5 CKPR and Rock94 Radio: November 28 December 9, 2022

The electronic Project mailing list (anyone who opts-in to receive Project emails) also received the notice on November 22, 2022, which includes the following groups:

- MFFN Chief, Council members and community members
- MFFN CAR Project Team
- Indigenous community key contacts (as requested by Indigenous communities), e.g., Chief and Council members, consultants and / or band office contacts
- Tribal Councils, Provincial Territorial Organizations and Métis Nation
- Indigenous Peoples (i.e., Indigenous community members who opted in and are not identified as key contacts)
- Businesses
- Tourism operators
- Community and interest groups and non-governmental organizations
- Forest management companies
- Mining claim holders
- Unaffiliated members of the public
- Emergency medical services and law enforcement
- Political parties and their contacts
- Neighbouring projects and their key contacts
- Government Review Team (GRT)
- Non-GRT government representatives

In addition to PIC #4 notifications, the Project website (<u>www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca</u>) was periodically updated with Project information including all relevant Project notices (e.g., NoC of EA, Discussion Guides, videos, monthly E-Blasts) and other Project-related materials such as mapping. More details are included in **Section 2** below.

# 1.5 Summary of Indigenous Community and Organization Consultation

As outlined in Milestone Progress Report #1, 23 Indigenous communities were identified for engagement. This list is included in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: Identified Indigenous Communities, including their Provincial Territorial Organizations and / or Tribal Council Affiliations

Tribal Council Affiliation	Community or Organization
Matawa First Nations Management (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul> <li>Marten Falls First Nation (Proponent and potentially affected Indigenous community)* +</li> <li>Aroland First Nation* +</li> <li>Constance Lake First Nation* +</li> <li>Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope)* +</li> <li>Ginoogaming First Nation* +</li> <li>Neskantaga First Nation* +</li> <li>Nibinamik First Nation* +</li> <li>Webequie First Nation* +</li> </ul>
Matawa First Nation and the Union of Ontario Indians (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	■ Long Lake #58 First Nation* +
Mushkegowuk Council (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul> <li>Attawapiskat First Nation* +</li> <li>Fort Albany First Nation* +</li> <li>Kashechewan First Nation*</li> </ul>

Tribal Council Affiliation	Community or Organization		
Shibogama First Nations Council (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul> <li>Kasabonika Lake First Nation* +</li> <li>Kingfisher Lake First Nation</li> <li>Wapekeka First Nation</li> <li>Wawakapewin First Nation</li> <li>Wunnumin Lake First Nation</li> </ul>		
Independent First Nations Alliance	■ Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation		
Independent First Nations (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul><li>Mishkeegogamang First Nation</li><li>Weenusk First Nation +</li></ul>		
Nokiiwin Tribal Council	<ul> <li>Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation (AZA)</li> </ul>		
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)	■ Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Region 2		
Independent Métis Nation	Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (RSMIN)		

Notes: + Indicates Indigenous communities or organizations who are participating in the Indigenous Knowledge Program.

As of May 31, 2023, the Project has received communication from 18 of these communities and MNO. Those communities MFFN has met with during Effects Assessment Methods milestone are indicated with an asterisk (\*) below:

- Marten Falls First Nation\*:
- Aroland First Nation;
- Attawapiskat First Nation;
- Constance Lake First Nation\*:
- Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope)\*;
- Fort Albany First Nation;
- Ginoogaming First Nation\*;
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation;
- Kashechewan First Nation;
- Kingfisher Lake First Nation;

- Long Lake #58 First Nation\*;
- Metis Nation of Ontario\*
- Neskantaga First Nation;
- Nibinamik First Nation;
- Webequie First Nation;
- Weenusk First Nation
- RSMIN;
- AZA; and
- Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation.

The remaining five communities have not communicated with MFFN between July 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023. MFFN remains available to meet with these communities in the future and continues outreach on an ongoing basis; providing the same milestone information (e.g., Discussion Guides, monthly E-Blasts, notifications, field notices) offered to all of the 23 Indigenous communities being engaged. These communities include:

- Wunnumin Lake First Nation;
- Wapekeka First Nation;
- Wawakapewin First Nation;

- Mishkeegogamang First Nation; and
- Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 2.

Those Tribal Councils, Nations and Alliances listed in the table above, as well as the Chiefs of Ontario and Union of Ontario Indians, have been identified as potentially interested in the Project, and have been provided with information and MFFN remains available to meet, throughout the EA / IA process.

MFFN is currently consulting and engaging with Indigenous communities identified by the MECP and the Agency and will continue to do so throughout the EA / IA, as per the level of interest expressed by each community. MFFN, as the Proponent, will also continue to work with communities to collect IK to incorporate into the EA / IS regarding traditional land and resource use and cultural practices.

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates Indigenous communities or organization that have been invited to participate in the Community Coordinator Program.

To help achieve an appropriate level of consultation and engagement related to the Project, (i.e., frequency and depth of consultation and engagement), the list of communities being engaged was considered against the following:

- Expressed interest (to-date) in the proposed MFFN Community Access Road, including applying to Ministry of Mines and the Agency for capacity funding, participation in the Indigenous Knowledge program or participation in the Community Coordinator program;
- Aboriginal or Treaty Rights, including any rights that neighbouring Indigenous communities themselves have identified, may be adversely affected by the Project;
- Geographical distance or proximity to the study area;
- Situated downstream of the Project and with a potential to experience effects to water courses as a result of the Project;
- Traditional and / or current land use within the study area or of lands potentially affected by the Project;
- Potential for effects on the environmental, health and social and economic conditions of neighbouring Indigenous communities; and,
- Provided comments on the EA / IA processes.

MFFN has adjusted the approach to engaging each indigenous community based on this criteria, but understands the list may evolve as new information becomes available and more neighbouring Indigenous communities engage in the consultation and engagement opportunities provided.

All 23 identified Indigenous communities have been contacted regularly by the MFFN CAR Project Team with conversations ranging from: field study / valued component (e.g., educational videos and webinars); information and surveys; regular Project email updates, including monthly E-Blasts; in-person outreach (via telephone and email); the IK Program; Community Co-ordinator Program; PIC #4; invitation to the ATRI Forum, and offers to meet (e.g., Chief and Council meetings followed by meetings with the broader community). Comments, issues and questions received from Indigenous communities that can be shared publicly are included in **Section 3**.

In summary, the MFFN CAR Project Team has provided / offered many opportunities to consult and engage the identified Indigenous communities, including (with specific details in the Consultation Snapshot table in **Section 2**):

- Distributed Draft interim Record of Consultation and Engagement (RoCE) and Milestone #1 Progress Report, which include community-specifc chapters individually provided to the respective indigenous community via email;
- Completed follow-up phone calls and emails to confirm receipt of notifications and other distributed materials;
- Circulated Project updates, including 10 E-Blasts;
- Sent emails and phone calls to confirm interest in being consulted on the Project (for communities that had not yet expressed interest);
- Held conference calls / in-person meetings with community representatives and / or community meetings with Indigenous communities;
- Distributed field notices and updates regarding specific programs;
- Circulated IK Program update, including updated schedule;
- Completed follow-up via phone calls and emails regarding E-Blast contents, field programs and corresponding Discussion Guides, Community Co-ordinator Program, IK Program and ATRI forum;
- Offered to meet;

- Circulated Community Co-ordinator Program letter offering to hire members of specific Indigenous communities as Project-specific Community Co-ordinators. A description of the role was provided and offer to setup a meeting to discuss further;
- Distributed Notice of PIC #4 Introduction of EA / IS;
- Held PIC #4 in Thunder Bay and Geraldton, along with an in-community MFFN meeting, and online version of the PIC #4;
- Distributed three plain language videos showcasing different valued components and supporting content in Field Study Discussion Guide and Notices;
- Held meetings with MFFN Chief and Council and broader community;
- Hosted a Valued Components Webinar Series; and
- Held the ATRI Forum in person.

Specific Indigenous communities were also offered funding through the Community Co-ordinator Program—these communities have been most engaged and active on the Project or have indicated interest in engaging on the Project and requiring financial support. In addition, MFFN and Aroland First Nation members were also offered employment opportunities as Field Study Support Staff to assist with field programs. Between July 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023, 31 Field Study Support Staff opportunities were filled by ten (10) MFFN community members.

# 1.6 Summary of Input and Information Received and EA Milestone Development

The following **Table 1-2** describes a high-level summary of input and information received during this reporting time period and how this information has informed the EA milestone development or will inform the EA. While there was some specific feedback received that has directly informed the EA milestone development / EA, the majority of feedback was broad with limited specific details (therefore requiring on-going follow-up and additional details from source commenters) or were more general interests or concerns. The MFFN CAR Project Team will continue to follow-up and seek additional details.

#### Table 1-2: Summary of Input and Information Received and EA / Milestone Development

#### How the Development of the EA Milestone Input and Information Provided by Indigenous Communities or EA has been or may be Informed Specific Feedback Provided on Environmental Existing ■ Birds and comments on their habitats were noted for the bird Conditions field program. Specific feedback was provided on the bird field program, One site of the wolverine hair snag was changed based on including birds observed and comments on their habitats. feedback provided. Specific feedback was provided on the wolverine field ■ The EA has been informed by confidential information regarding the Albany River and details are being kept program. ■ Confidential information regarding the Albany River was confidential. provided and is considered as IK. ■ The general identification of caribou location(s) has been ■ Caribou were identified in the District of Kenora (between points I and H of the MFFN CAR route. ■ Members of Aroland First Nation were invited to participate in Request to participate in field studies. the Groundwater and Geochemistry field program, including a ■ Feedback on footprint was provided, specifically on flyover and planning for subsequent drilling program (outside aggregates. of this reporting time period); any feedback provided during the flyover will be considered as part of the EA. ■ Footprint comments were recorded to be considered in the route selection.

#### **How the Development of the EA Milestone** Input and Information Provided by Indigenous Communities or EA has been or may be Informed **Concerns Related to Environmental Existing Conditions;** ■ Relocating spawning areas has not yet been determined due Additional Details Required to insufficient details provided. On-going follow-up is taking It was noted that a spawning area could be relocated if it place to receive additional information to help identify the would be disrupted by the Project spawning area. Concern was expressed for watersheds More specific details are required related to concerns for Concern was expressed regarding caribou migration and watersheds. As part of the alternative selection, effects to impacts to gathering rights Natural Environment will be taken into consideration. Concern was expressed related to salting on the road and ■ More specific details are required related to concerns for impacts to nearby rivers caribou migration and impacts to gathering rights. Alternative 1 of Segment FG was identified as a sensitive and ■ The concern regarding salting and nearby rivers has been a very precious area. noted and maintenance of the Community Access Road, including usage of salt, will be one of the indicators for the ■ It was noted that the Projet should not impede fish passage. evaluation. ■ Comment on Alternative 1 of Segment FG was noted and will be considered in the route selection. Comment on fish passage will be considered when developing mitigation measures. Interests Related to Environmental Existing Conditions; Interest in topics has been noted for each community. The **Additional Details Required** MFFN CAR Project Team continues to distribute Discussion Several communities indicated interest in different topics Guides related to field studies, educational videos and is related to existing conditions without providing specific planning upcoming webinars on valued components. Early feedback or comments. Some examples include receiving observations and methods for field studies completed to-date field study results when they become available for caribou were provided at PIC #3 and will be expanded as more information becomes available. Meetings will continue to be offered based on specific topics of interest to solicit additional feedback and issues. **Route Alignment** Concerns related to the route alignment closer to MFFN have A variety of comments were provided on the route alignment been noted and will be considered as part of the EA. As part near MFFN, including: river and ice levels can be high near of the EA, the evaluation will identify the preferred route for MFFN and there are locations where the bank is eroding and the Community Access Road, temporary infrastructure and could affect the road; intense rain could damage the road and aggregate sources with the least potential for negative effects, impact streams due to erosion; safety concerns were raised greatest opportunity for mitigating negative effects and regarding truck activities (including dust, noise, low visibility greatest benefits to the community. Safety will be considered and speeding) north of the airport and children who play in the as part of the technical considerations and issues such as same area; and concerns regarding how the Community water level and erosion will also be considered as part of Access Road may interfere with MFFN community activities technical considerations and examined under Natural (e.g., gathering firewood, social events) Environment. Some of the comments received were directed to government **Cumulative Effects, Road Projects and Regional** agencies (e.g., NDMNRF, MECP, the Agency) to respond to Assessment ■ Some communities expressed concerns regarding cumulative as they were outside of the scope of the Community Access effects / impacts in the Project area, including the scope of Road Project. In terms of cumulative effects, if specific details the EA, impacts from all three road projects (the Community are provided they will be considered as part of the EA; the EA Access Road, Webequie Supply Road and Northern Road will predict cumulative effects of the preferred alternative with Link), the Regional Assessment and a moratorium on the the effects of past, present and reasonably foreseeable Ring of Fire activities. projects. Cumulative effects assessment methods will be shared during the Identification of Preferred Alternatives milestone. Impacts from COVID-19 ■ The MFFN CAR Project Team continues to work with each ■ Some communities expressed inability to effectively engage Indigenous community's preference in how they would like to with their community members due to the COVID-19 be consulted and engaged, whether virtually or in-person and pandemic. in light of the COVID-19 pandemic or other crises. Custom consultation plans and protocols were also offered and will be followed up on with communities who expressed interest. On November 4, 2022, a request for an IS extension was **Timeline Extensions** ■ Some communities requested extended Project timelines, for submitted, and was granted on January 13, 2023. On November 25, 2022, the MFFN CAR Project Team advised

both the provincial and federal processes.

Input and Information Provided by Indigenous Communities	How the Development of the EA Milestone or EA has been or may be Informed
	communities of the IS Extension Request. Commmunites were advised of the IS timeline extension approval on January 13, 2023 by IAAC.
Request for Funding  Some communities expressed need for provincial participant funding to participate in consultation and engagement activities. There has also been ongoing coordination to onboard communities to the IK Program and Community Coordinator Program, with funding provided by the MFFN CAR Project Team.	<ul> <li>While participant funding is issued by the Province and not the MFFN CAR Project Team, requests were shared with the province to respond to.</li> <li>Additional funding for Indigenous communities include participation in the IK Program and Community Coordinator Program. The MFFN CAR Project Team has followed up with Indigenous communities via phone and email throughout this milestone regarding funding opportunities.</li> </ul>

**Section 2** provides an overview of consultation and engagement activities during the Effects Assessment Methods Milestone.

A detailed record of the efforts made to consult and engage with each of the 24 Indigenous communities and communication received from the communities from July 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 is provided in **Section 3**. The following sections summarize key consultation activities and issues received through consultation and engagement activities during this time period. The report for each community also includes discussion of how any input and information provided by the Indigenous communities have informed the development of the EA milestone.

**Appendix A** of this report includes copies of Project distributions sent to Indigenous communities and others including monthly E-Blasts, Field Notices and Field Study Discussion Guides. **Appendix B** of this report includes copies of distributions to Indigenous communities including, presentations, meeting summaries, if applicable. This overview and appendix materials are provided to Indigenous communities for their review before moving into the next milestone, Identification of Preferred Alternatives.

# 2. Consultation Snapshot

The table below provides an overview of consultation and engagement activities during the Effects Assessment Methods Milestone. Issues received through consultation and engagement activities during this milestone are included in **Section 3**.

Table 2-1: Consultation Snapshot – From October 29, 2021 to May 31, 2023

Items in black occurred during the NoC of EA Milestone between October 29, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Items in blue occurred during the Effects Assessment Methods Milestone from July 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

Project Phases: NoC of EA and Effects Assessment				
	Audience			
Activity	Indigenous Communities	Interested Persons	Agencies & Government Bodies	
NoC				
■ Distribution of EA NoC (October 29, 2021).	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	✓	
■ NoC Advertisement (October 29 to November 12, 2021).	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	
Interim Record of Consultation and Engagement (RoCE)				
■ Draft Interim RoCE distributed to Indigenous communities for review (December 6, 2022).	<b>✓</b>			
■ Email follow-up distributed in January 2023.	<b>✓</b>			
Milestone Progress Report #1				
■ Draft Progress Report distributed to Indigenous communities for review (December 6, 2022)	✓			
■ Email follow-up distributed in January 2023.	✓			
Archaeology Assessment Reports for Stage 1 and Stage 2				
■ Archaeology Assessment Reports for Stage 1 and Stage 2 distributed (February 3, 2023)	<b>✓</b>			
Public Information Centre #3 (PIC #3)				
■ PIC #3 Notice distributed (June 13, 2022)	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	
■ PIC #3 in Thunder Bay (June 27, 2022)	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	
■ PIC #3 in Geraldton (June 29, 2022)	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	
Public Information Centre #4 (PIC #4)				
■ PIC #4 Notice distributed (November 22, 2022)	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	
■ PIC #4 in Thunder Bay (December 7, 2022)	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	
■ PIC #4 in Geraldton (December 8, 2022)	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	
Individual Project Meetings				
Follow-up letters, emails, and phone calls to Indigenous communities regarding the Project.	✓			
■ Hosted in-person and virtual meetings with:  - MFFN community (in-person November 16 to 17, 2021)  - MFFN community (virtual February 2, 2022)  - MFFN community (in-person June 28, 2022; PIC #3 materials)  - MFFN community (in-person November 2, 2022; PIC #4 materials)  - MFFN community (in-person December 6, 2022; PIC #4 materials)	<b>√</b>			

Project Phases: NoC of EA and Effects Assessment				
	Audience			
Activity	Indigenous Communities	Interested Persons	Agencies & Government Bodies	
■ Presented to the Mushkegowuk Council AGM (in-person, November 24, 2021)	✓			
■ Teleconference with Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to discuss the IK Program (February 4, 2022). Note: Also captured under the IK Program section below	<b>✓</b>			
■ Teleconference with Constance Lake First Nation (April 21, 2022). Note: Also captured under the IK Program and Community Coordinator section below	<b>✓</b>			
■ Teleconference presentation to Mushkegowuk Tribal Council's Terrestrial Working Group (May 18, 2022)	<b>~</b>	<b>V</b>		
■ In-person meeting regarding Community Coordinator and IK Programs with Long Lake # 58 (August 9, 2022).	<b>\</b>			
■ Helicopter flyover to visually inspect three potential groundwater sites with Aroland First Nation (August 17 and 18, 2022).	<b>&gt;</b>			
■ Well drilling activities monitored by Aroland First Nation representatives (November 25 – December 3, 2022).	<b>&gt;</b>			
■ A teleconference meeting with Long Lake #58 First Nation to discuss the Community Coordinator Program and IK Program. (February 13, 2023)	<b>✓</b>			
■ A virtual meeting with Long Lake #58 First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation to discuss the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage reports (April 21, 2023).	1			
■ Teleconference with Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to discuss Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program (April 27, 2023)	<b>✓</b>			
■ In-person Nation-to-Nation meeting with Eabametoong First Nation to provide an overview of the MFFN CAR (May 10, 2023) .	<b>✓</b>			
■ A virtual meeting with Marten Falls First Nation was held regarding the engineering, construction and the route selection process for the Project (May 15, 2023).	<b>✓</b>			
Other Notices / Newsletters				
<ul> <li>2021 Highlights Letter distributed to Indigenous communities via email (December 15, 2021)</li> </ul>	✓			
Phone calls to Indigenous communities to follow-up on the December E-Blast, Winter Discussion Guide and field notice (December 16 to 17, 2021).	✓			
■ Circulated Monthly Project Update Email Blast (referred to as E-Blast)  - October 2021 (November 3, 2021)  - November 2021 (November 30 201)  - December 2021 (December 15, 2021)  - January 2022 (January 31, 2022)  - February / March 2022 (March 15, 2022)  - April 2022 (April 29, 2022)  - May 2022 (May 27, 2022)  - June 2022 (June 24, 2022)  - July 2022 (July 26, 2022)  - August 2022 (August 19, 2022)  - September 2022 (September 29, 2022)  - October 2022 (November 2, 2022)  - November 2022 (November 25, 2022)  - December 2022 (December 20, 2022)  - January 2023 (January 30, 2023)  - February 2023 (February 28, 2023)  - March 2023 (April 4, 2023)  - April 2023 (April 28, 2023)	<b>~</b>	<b>✓</b>		

Project Phases: NoC of EA and Effects Assessment				
		Audience		
Activity	Indigenous Communities	Interested Persons	Agencies & Government Bodies	
■ Circulated Field Study Notices & Discussion Guides:  - Winter Field Program Notice and Discussion Guide (December 10, 2021)  - Furbearer Ground Track Survey Update (January 19, 2022)  - Bird Aerial Surveys Update (February 4, 2022)  - Wolverine Den Surveys Notice (February 14, 2022)  - Wolverine Hair Snag Program and Bird Autonomous Recording Unit Update	<b>√</b>	1	✓ 	
<ul> <li>(March 3, 2022)</li> <li>Wolverine Den Survey Update (March 9, 2022)</li> <li>Early Spring Notice (March 29, 2022)</li> <li>Terrain and Soils Notice (May 11, 2022)</li> <li>Surface Water, Fish and Fish Habitat Notice (May 30, 2022)</li> <li>Vegetation Field Notice (June 10, 2022)</li> <li>Groundwater and Geochemistry (July 29, 2022)</li> <li>Fall Field Programs Update (September 16, 2022)</li> <li>Winter / Spring 2023 Field Notice (December 1, 2022)</li> <li>Field Programs updates (March 9, 2023)</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>Spring 2023 Field Notice (April 21, 2023)</li> <li>■ Matawa Messenger newsletter feature (June 2022)</li> <li>■ Follow-up to furbearer winter tracking field program notice (January 27, 2023)</li> <li>■ Follow-up on ungulate aerial survey notice (February 15, 2023)</li> </ul>	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	
<ul> <li>Webinar Series:</li> <li>Animals and Wildlife (Ungulates and Furbearers) (November 15, 2022)</li> <li>Surface Water, Fish &amp; Fish Habitat (November 29, 2022)</li> <li>Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (January 10, 2023)</li> <li>Vegetation and Physiography (January 17, 2023)</li> <li>Peatlands (January 31, 2023)</li> <li>Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change (February 14, 2023)</li> <li>Socio-Economic Studies Part I (February 21, 2023)</li> <li>Socio-Economic Studies Part II (February 28, 2023)</li> <li>Groundwater and Geochemistry (March 14, 2023)</li> <li>Birds (March 21, 2023)</li> <li>Reptiles, Amphibians, Insects and Bats (March 28, 2023)</li> <li>ATRI (April 4, 2023)</li> <li>Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program</li> </ul>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>V</b>	
<ul> <li>Circulated an update on the MFFN CAR IK Program which included an updated schedule and timeline for Indigenous communities to share IK (January 21 to 24, 2022)</li> </ul>	✓			
■ Teleconference with Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to discuss the IK Program (February 4, 2022)	✓			
■ Teleconference with Constance Lake First Nation to discuss the IK Program (and Community Coordinator Program) (April 21, 2022)	✓			
■ IK Program Update on the Proposed ATRI Study Areas Memo and ATRI Shapefiles were distributed via email. (August 2022)	✓			
■ Distributed a Save the Date for the upcoming ATRI Forum and Cultural Heritage Workshop via email (December 20, 2022)	✓			
■ Invitation to ATRI Forum distributed (January 13, 2023, and February 1, 2023)	✓			
■ ATRI Forum and Cultural Heritage Workshop in Thunder Bay (February 8 – 9, 2023)	✓			
■ IK Program timeline and update letter (March 22, 2023)	✓			

Project Phases: NoC of EA and Effects Assessment						
	Audience					
Activity		Interested Persons	Agencies & Government Bodies			
Community Coordinator Program						
■ Distribution of letter introducing the Community Coordinator Program to 13 neighbouring Indigenous communities including job posting (March 17, 2022)	<b>✓</b>					
■ Teleconference with Constance Lake First Nation to discuss the Community Coordinator Program (and the IK Program) (April 21, 2022)	<b>~</b>					
■ Ongoing outreach to 13 Indigenous communities to address questions and discuss details of the Community Coordinator Program (April – May, 2022; Jan, 2023)	<b>~</b>					
Planned Future MFFN CAR Consultation and Engagement Activities						
Ongoing conversations with 13 Indigenous communities regarding the IK Program, as needed (e.g., Aroland First Nation and Constance Lake First Nation).	~					
Ongoing conversations with 13 Indigenous communities regarding participation in the Community Coordinator Program, eventual hiring and onboarding in the role.	<b>&gt;</b>					
Ongoing follow-up to set-up meetings with Indigenous communities and ask about ATRI.	<b>✓</b>					
■ Ongoing planning for MFFN in-community meeting in October	<b>✓</b>					
■ Ongoing planning for PIC #5 in Thunder Bay and Geraldton in October	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>			

# 3. Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous Communities, Provincial and Territorial Organizations and Tribal Councils

# 3.1 Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous Communities

To summarize overall engagement with each Indigenous community, the following analytics were performed:

The **Level of Engagement Effort and Response** bar graph reflects the efforts taken by the MFFN CAR Project Team to engage Indigenous communities and the level of response received. Communications channels considered include **email correspondence** (outgoing & incoming), **phone correspondence** (outgoing & incoming), and **meetings offered in comparison to meetings scheduled**, by any means of communication.

- Email Correspondence reflects all personalized emails sent between the MFFN CAR Project Team and Indigenous communities.
  - Outgoing Email Correspondence reflects all personalized emails sent from the MFFN CAR
     Project Team to a specific Indigenous community; mass communications sent to all communities
     by the MFFN CAR Project Team are not considered in this calculation.
  - Incoming Email Correspondence includes emails received from an Indigenous community directly to MFFN CAR Project Team; emails that only confirm receipt of an outgoing email or emails where the MFFN CAR Project Team are copied but not directly mentioned are not included.
- Phone Correspondence reflects all call attempts between the MFFN CAR Project Team and an Indigenous community.
  - Outgoing Phone Calls reflect all phone calls made by the MFFN CAR Project Team to an Indigenous community. Answered Phone Calls includes those calls that were answered immediately by the intended recipient or were returned at a later time when the contact was available.
  - Incoming Phone Calls reflect instances where Indigenous communities contacted MFFN CAR
     Project Team without a previous outgoing phone call.
- Meetings Offered vs. Held reflects the efforts taken by the MFFN CAR Project Team to schedule a meeting in comparison to the number of meetings achieved between the Indigenous community and the MFFN CAR Project Team.



Phone: 1-800-764-9114 Care Email: info@martenfallsaccessroad.ca Web: http://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca

