



Indigenous Services  
Canada

Services aux Autochtones  
Canada

PROTECTED B (when completed)



# MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION #65

Ogoki Post, Ontario P0T 2L0 Tel: (807) 349-2509 Fax: (807) 349-2511

## BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

### Submission of the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road

Chronological Number:
File Reference Number: MFCAR EAIS Submission

*Note: The words "from our Band Funds," "Capital," Or "Revenue," whichever is the case, must appear in all resolutions requesting expenditure from Band Funds.*

The Council of <b>Marten Falls First Nation</b>		<b>Cash-free Balance:</b>
Duly Convened Meeting Date: (YYYY-MM-DD): 2026-02-18	Province/Territory: <b>Ontario</b>	Capital Account (\$):
		Revenue Amount (\$):

**WHEREAS:** The Marten Falls First Nation Chief and Council are an elected body to represent the membership of Marten Falls First Nation pursuant to the governance of the *Indian Act*;

**WHEREAS:** Winter Road conditions have been inadequate for shipping full loads over the past several years;

**WHEREAS:** Due to inadequate winter roads and the unreliability of air travel with shifting weather patterns, shipping by aircraft to Marten Falls First Nation has become a financial burden and cause of construction project delays;

**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation determined that the best option for the community was to proceed with the development of an all-season access road to the community;

**WHEREAS:** In 2016, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines informed Marten Falls First Nation of its intention to support community research on options for connecting Marten Falls to the provincial transportation (highway) network through the development of an all-season community access road (CAR);

**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation completed pre-feasibility studies, conducted community engagement, and developed a Project Proposal (May 10, 2017) which led to the identification of preliminary access route options (alternatives) to the community;

**WHEREAS:** The Project Proposal included four (4) preliminary alternatives, where Alternative 1 and Alternative 4 were referred to as the western routes located within the West Corridor Alternative, and Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 were the eastern routes located within the East Corridor Alternative;



**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation reached an agreement with the Government of Ontario in August 2017 to plan and construct an all-season CAR connecting the community to the provincial highway network;

**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation has been actively engaging Marten Falls First Nation community membership and interested persons on the all-season CAR since 2017;

**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation signed a voluntary agreement with Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on May 3, 2018 to conduct an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Design for a proposed all-season CAR, which initiated a coordinated assessment process with provincial and federal agencies;

**WHEREAS:** The process to consult First Nations and other rightsholders and stakeholders began in early 2018, and the Terms of Reference (ToR) consultation phase started with the publication of the Notice of the Commencement of the ToR on March 6, 2019, which was the official first step in the provincial EA process and set out in detail the requirements for the preparation of Marten Falls First Nation's EA;

**WHEREAS:** Feedback received from Marten Falls First Nation community membership, Community Member Advisors, and Chief and Council during the winter and spring of 2019 led to a decision that the two route options within the East Corridor (Alternative 2 and Alternative 3) would not be considered further, leaving the West Corridor (Alternative 1 and Alternative 4) for further consideration during the EA;

**WHEREAS:** On July 29, 2019, Marten Falls First Nation submitted its Project Description for its proposed All-Season CAR to the federal Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and commenced the public review process on its Project Description under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA, 2012);

**WHEREAS:** On July 31, 2019, the Chief and Council of Marten Falls First Nation signed a Band Council Resolution (BCR) confirming that only Alternative 1 and Alternative 4 would be considered in moving forward with the EA process;

**WHEREAS:** The *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) came into force on August 28, 2019, replacing the CEAA, 2012 to assess environmental, health, social, and economic impacts of major projects, and created the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC or the Agency) to replace the former CEA Agency;

**WHEREAS:** The IAA resulted in Marten Falls First Nation's Project Description transitioning into the new Act requirements, requiring the submitted Project Description to be re-designated as an Initial Project Description under the IAA and resulted in a second public review period under the IAA;

**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation developed an Initial Project Description for the Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR), which was released for public and Indigenous community review and comment in September 2019;

**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation incorporated feedback received into the Detailed Project Description, which was submitted under the federal IAA on November 9, 2019;



**WHEREAS:** The Agency released a Notice of Impact Assessment Decision with Reasons on November 29, 2019, determining that an Impact Assessment (IA) was required for the MFCAR Project, pursuant to subsection 16(2) of the IAA;

**WHEREAS:** A Draft ToR was released for review by Indigenous communities, agencies, the public, and other stakeholders on December 4, 2019, and its release was followed by the commencement of the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program (December 2019), ongoing engagement with rightsholders and stakeholders, and field studies on route alternatives;

**WHEREAS:** A Notice of Commencement of an IA was released on February 24, 2020;

**WHEREAS:** The ToR was submitted in the fall of 2020 and approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) on October 8, 2021, with amendments that the Minister considered necessary;

**WHEREAS:** The Notice of Commencement of the EA was issued on October 29, 2021;

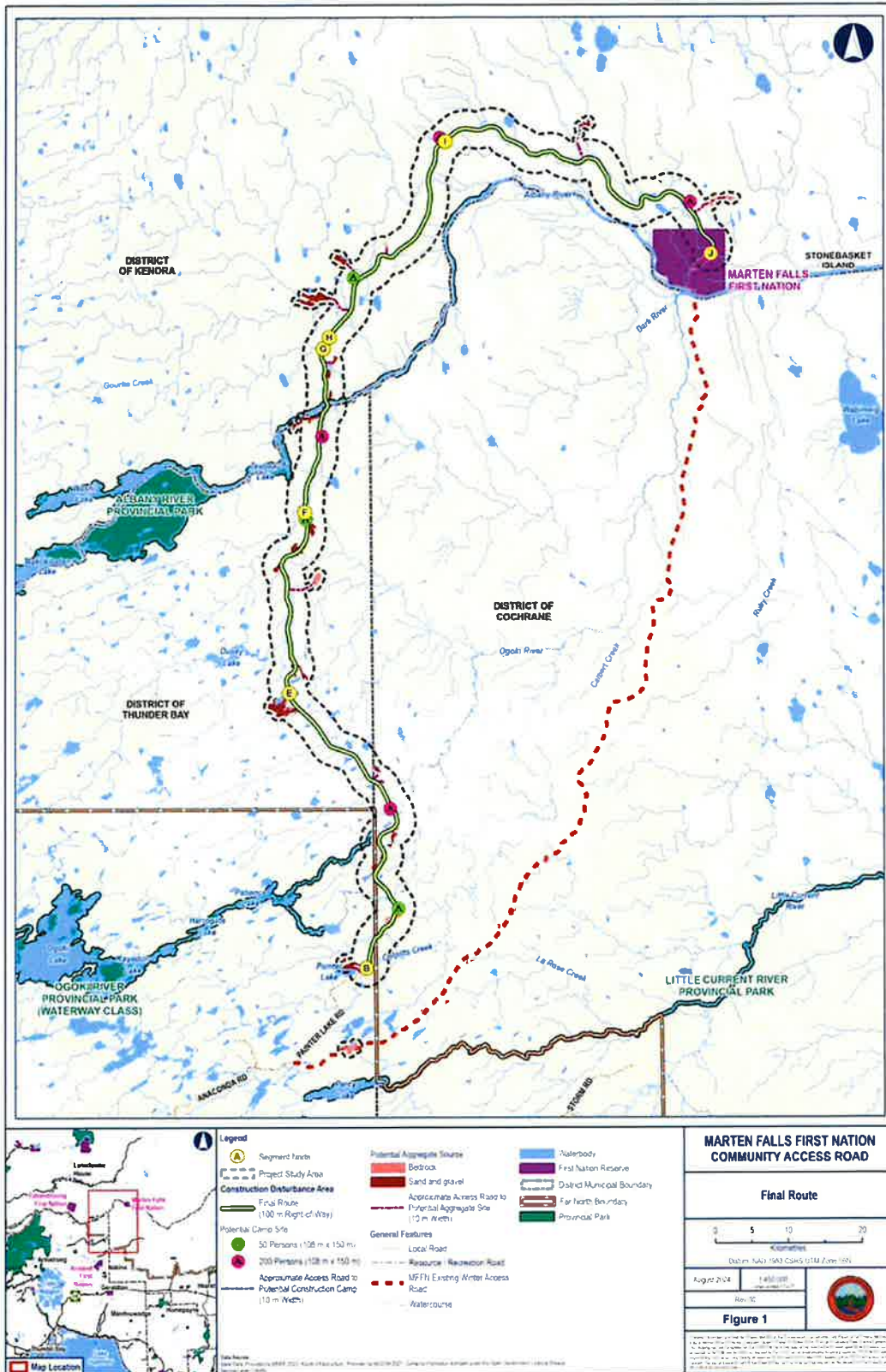
**WHEREAS:** The IK Program, ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and the public, field studies, and other assessments (e.g., environmental, social, engineering, etc.) on the proposed MFCAR continued into 2022 and 2023, leading up to the identification of a Final Route and the preparation and submission of the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS);

**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation completed an evaluation of Alternative 1 and Alternative 4 to identify a Final Route, which included obtaining Marten Falls First Nation's feedback (November 2022 and October 2023) on the preferred route and obtaining and considering feedback from Aroland First Nation (June 19, June 20, July 15, July 16), along with broad consultation and engagement with neighbouring First Nations;

**WHEREAS:** The evaluation of Alternative 1 and Alternative 4 led to the identification of a Final Route recommendation and the plan to request a BCR was shared with Marten Falls First Nation Community members on July 17 and 18, 2024;

**WHEREAS:** The Chief and Council of Marten Falls First Nation issued a BCR in August 2024 to support the selection of the Final Route as identified in Figure 1;





**WHEREAS:** The Draft EA / IS was prepared and eventually released on February 18, 2025 for Indigenous communities to review and on April 22, 2025 for broader public review, with a comment period ending on September 5, 2025 (initially June 23, 2025) to accommodate extension requests from Indigenous communities and government regulators;

**WHEREAS:** Marten Falls First Nation and the Government of Ontario agreed to negotiate a Community Partnership Agreement that would accelerate the development of the MFCAR;

**WHEREAS:** Consultation with Marten Falls First Nation community membership occurred and the community approved of the proposed Community Partnership Agreement;

**WHEREAS:** The Community Partnership Agreement was signed between Marten Falls First Nation and Ontario on November 27, 2025;

**WHEREAS:** Through the Community Partnership Agreement, Marten Falls First Nation agreed to submit the Final EA / IS for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road by February 20, 2026, on an expedited basis;

**WHEREAS:** Comments received from Indigenous communities and other rightsholders and stakeholders were incorporated into the EA / IS in preparation for the submission of the Final EA / IS;

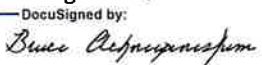

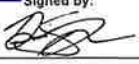

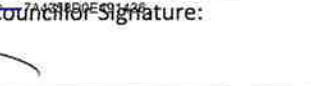
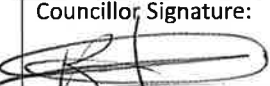

**WHEREAS:** The EA for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road has followed the approved ToR, which was prepared in accordance with the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and the Code of Practice for Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessments in Ontario;

**WHEREAS:** The Impact Statement (IS) for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road follows Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG), a key element for the federal IA process which, in conjunction with the provincial ToR, has provided direction and requirements for the preparation of the EA / IS;

**WHEREAS:** The IS is structured in such a manner to ensure that technical issues or topics have been handled cohesively, incorporating factors laid out in the federal IAA.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Chief and Council of Marten Falls First Nation support the submission of the Final EA / IS for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road.

Quorum: 6 of 9.	Chief Signature: DocuSigned by:  Bruce Achneepineskum	
Councillor Signature: Signed by:  Bob Baxter	Councillor Signature: Signed by:  Darrin Spence	Councillor Signature:
Councillor Signature: 	Councillor Signature: 	Councillor Signature: 
Councillor Signature:	Councillor Signature: Signed by:  Sam Achneepineskum	



ISC USE ONLY					
Expenditure:	Authority: <i>(Indian Act section)</i>	Source of funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Capital <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue	Expenditure:	Authority: <i>(Indian Act section)</i>	Source of funds: <input type="checkbox"/> Capital <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue
Recommending Officer Signature:		Date (YYYYMMDD)	Recommending Officer Signature:		Date:(YYYYMMDD)
Approved by:		Date (YYYYMMDD)	Approved by:		Date:(YYYYMMDD)
Signature:			Signature:		

