



Slate Falls Nation

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MEMORANDUM #1: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

DATE: June 8, 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to (1) provide an overview of further memoranda attached hereto and (2) articulate Slate Falls' expectations for next steps Canada must take to bring its flawed consultation efforts in line with the Honour of the Crown.

Canada is at a critical point in the consultation process for the proposed Springpole mine, but unfortunately is heading in the wrong direction

The May 26, 2026 meeting and recent materials provided by IAAC demonstrate that major gaps remain in the consultation process for the Project. Slate Falls has become increasingly concerned that Canada has embarked on a path that is inconsistent with the Honour of Crown in its dealings with Slate Falls. Memorandum #2 sets out our review of the impact to rights summary that IAAC provided on the evening of Friday, June 5, 2026. Memorandum #3 sets out our summary of the May 26, 2026 meeting held in Thunder Bay.

Canada must take steps to get consultation back on track

Canada must fulfil its consultation and accommodation obligations to Slate Falls, particularly in light of unresolved impacts to Slate Falls' Treaty rights. Notwithstanding our significant concern with IAAC's flawed consultation approach to date and non-responsiveness to our many papers and requests, we believe it is still possible for Canada to advance the consultation process in a good way. Without accepting the flaws in the consultation process to date, below we provide an overview of next steps we expect Canada to undertake:

- **Substantially Improve Project Conditions:** On Friday June 5, 2026, IAAC shared an update on the recommended measures it proposes to incorporate into Project conditions. Many unfortunately relate to approaches for which we have provided feedback on many occasions. Our Memorandum #4 provides detailed proposals for

federal project conditions that are necessary for addressing risks and effects to federal interests under *CEAA, 2012*, including 5(1)(c). We expect IAAC to incorporate these into its current proposed conditions.

- **Revise the draft rights impact summary:** In line with IAAC's commitment to take a collaborative approach to Chapter 10, we expect that IAAC will revise the draft impact summary for Slate to transparently present accurate and more complete information. That means, at a minimum, (1) updating the draft to take into account the information we have previously provided and Memorandum #2; (2) revising the assessment in light of our request to stop maintaining a fixed mindset and to more credibly and accurately take into account the information we have provided; and (3) clearly reflecting Slate Falls' position that, for Canada to uphold its commitments to UNDRIP and fulfill its duty to consult, Canada must undertake a genuine free, prior, and informed consent process, improve conditions, and make appropriate Crown accommodation commitments, none of which have occurred.
- **Engage in an expedited process to confirm accommodation measures (which may include more robust complementary measures):** It is our understanding that IAAC has concluded that the Project will result in residual impacts to Slate Falls' rights and that accommodation measures ("complementary measures" in the terminology of IAAC) are warranted. Notwithstanding IAAC's misapprehension of the nature of our Treaty rights and the scale of the unresolved impacts to our rights, we agree that accommodation is required as part of Crown decision-making on the Project. It is our expectation that Canada will engage in real dialogue and problem-solving with us regarding these measures, with a view towards obtaining our free, prior, and informed consent and substantially addressing our concerns. This cannot, however, be limited to an arbitrary and fixed position on the scale of such measures. Rather, it must be a genuine and interest-based discussion aimed at protecting Slate Falls' Rights/well-being and upholding the Honour of the Crown.

Please note that this forward-looking list does not excuse the major flaws in Canada's consultation process to date and should not be understood as Slate Falls' acceptance of Canada's flawed consultation with our Nation. Rather, this is simply a response to IAAC informing us that it intends to refer the Project for decision within a few days and our effort, under great challenge and circumstances of IAAC's making, to be constructive during that period of time.

We look forward to your response.