

ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION

P.O. Box 248
Attawapiskat, Ontario P0L 1A0

September 14, 2020

Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie First Nation

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum
Marten Falls First Nation

Caitlin Cafaro
Crown Consultation Coordinator, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Kathleen O'Neill
Director, Environmental Assessment Branch, Ontario MECP

Re: Timelines for the Coordinated EA for the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) and the Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR)

Dear Chief Wabasse, Chief Achneepineskum, Ms. Cafaro, and Ms. O'Neill:

Since the fall of 2019, Attawapiskat First Nation has worked diligently to meet all deadlines for the environmental assessments of the two all-season road projects (WSR and the MFCAR). We have responded in detail to project descriptions, draft terms of reference, and draft tailored impact statement guidelines.

We are now at a stage in the environmental assessments where we need to consult directly with our members to discuss the impacts of these road projects to our rights and interests. This work is currently on hold, as Attawapiskat is still under a state of emergency due to the pandemic.

Our culture and laws require in-person, grassroots engagements. Our members need to have the opportunity to meet in person. This work cannot be substituted by video or phone conferences. We also cannot yet allow group meetings because Attawapiskat is particularly vulnerable to Covid-19, should we have an outbreak in the community.

Attawapiskat First Nation requests that the environmental assessment/impact assessment phases of the Coordinated EA be extended, by the number of months that Attawapiskat is unable to carry out meaningful engagement at the community level. Since March 2020, the pandemic has prevented us from having the types of meetings we need to properly assess how the proposed all-season roads will impact our rights and interests. Therefore, the upcoming phases of the environmental assessments need to be extended for at least six months or until we are able to resume in-person meetings in our community.

Kindly send us a definitive answer to our request within the next 14 days.

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Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Chief David Nakogee
Attawapiskat First Nation

CC: Charles Hookimaw, Director of Lands and Resources, Attawapiskat First Nation
Lawrence Baxter, Senior Community Advisor, Marten Falls First Nation Community Access
Road Project Team
Michael Fox, Regional Consultation Lead, Webequie First Nation
Kate Kempton, OKT
Dorothee Schreiber, Environmental Consultant, Attawapiskat First Nation
Council, Attawapiskat First Nation