



## CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

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June 12, 2020

Anjala Puvananathan, Director, Ontario Region  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)  
600-555 York Street  
Toronto, ON M5J 1R7

**Delivered via email:** [anjala.puvananathan@canada.ca](mailto:anjala.puvananathan@canada.ca)

### **Re: CLFN's Participation in Consultation Activities related to the Federal IA for the Marten Falls Community Access Road and Webequie Supply Road Projects**

Dear Ms. Puvananathan,

We are writing in response to the introductory meeting held between Constance Lake First Nation (CLFN) and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) on February 19, 2020, regarding the Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) and Webequie Supply Road (WSR) project impact assessments (IAs) and CLFN's requirements for engagement and consultation. As you are aware, the discussion occurred prior to the current pandemic situation, and CLFN would like to provide an update on our status and impacts to subsequent meeting follow-up.

In response to the global pandemic, CLFN declared a State of Emergency on March 17, 2020, due to insufficient medical emergency response services, medical supplies, COVID-19 testing kits/facilities, personal protective equipment and capacity, and a lack of food and supplies to work through the pandemic which threatens our public safety. This situation has occupied the full attention of our staff and membership since the date of declaration and continues as we try to adjust to our 'new reality'.

CLFN's already limited resources have been further strained, and the future face of community engagement and consultation remains unknown. CLFN is currently unable to conduct any of the community engagement activities required to actively participate in this IA, as presented and discussed in February. While progress and momentum were gaining in early 2020 with community engagement and our relationship with the IAAC and Proponents, everything came to a halt in mid-March. In addition to the global pandemic, the announcement at PDAC of the commencement of research into the 'Northern Link Road' further degraded CLFN's trust in the transparent details of the road projects. In reflection of the shifting environment surrounding

these projects and unknown details of future community engagement events/efforts, the subsequent consultation activities must be paused.

CLFN is formally requesting that a hold be placed on all engagement and consultation activities in relation to the MFCAR and WSR projects until after the global pandemic has subsided and CLFN is able to commit resources and thoughtful reflection on engagement methods and requirements. Our largest challenge will be with engaging and gathering Indigenous Knowledge (IK) values information from our Elders in a manner that will ensure their safety, using methods they are comfortable with. The development of IK study plans will require careful thought and the knowledge of pandemic risks and controls moving forward. While the current timeline for such accommodations is currently unknown, CLFN is open to future discussions with the IAAC to provide status updates and reach a mutually agreeable timeline for reinitiating engagement and consultation activities.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Chief Rick Allen  
(chief@clfn.on.ca)

cc. Bertha Sutherland, CLFN (bertha.sutherland@clfn.on.ca)  
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