



ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION

P.O. Box 248
Attawapiskat, Ontario
P0L1A0

February 23, 2026

SENT BY EMAIL

Lorraine Cox and Martyna Krezel
Team Leaders, Ontario Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
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Dear Ms. Cox and Ms. Krezel,

Re. IAAC's February 27, 2026 deadline to consider whether the proponent's Impact Statement has all the necessary information to conduct the impact assessment

We are writing with regard to your email of February 12, 2026, in which you state that "Comments submitted by February 27, 2026, will be considered to inform IAAC's decision of whether the proponent's Impact Statement has all the necessary information to conduct the impact assessment and IAAC's draft Impact Assessment report, as applicable."

Your February 27th deadline for making a decision on the adequacy of the proponent's impact statement is unreasonable and must be extended until Attawapiskat First Nation and the Impact Assessment Agency can jointly and collaboratively come to a decision about the whether the information provided by the proponent is sufficient for informing an analysis of impacts to rights.

As you know from our letters of October 6, 2025, and January 14, 2026, Attawapiskat First Nation still has many questions that have not been answered, on the impacts of the proposed project to our non-human relations, including the waters, the peatlands, the four-leggeds, and the fish.

At present, we are missing large amounts of information on the cumulative impacts of the proposed project. We also have no way of verifying the extent to which the missing information has been provided in the final Impact Statement, given that the impact statement is over 10,000 pages in length and an overview of how our comments have been addressed (requested by email to the proponent on February 6, 2026, and to your Agency on February 12, 2026) has not been provided.

The proponent's response table of January 12, 2026, which addresses only our letter of October 6, 2025, tells us that most of our questions are considered "out of scope" and "will not be addressed," or will be addressed as "addenda to the Final EA/IS" which we have not yet received. Ontario's response table likewise provides no substantive response. We have not had any response from Canada to our aforementioned letters.

Without complete information on the biophysical impacts of the project we cannot undertake an impacts to rights analysis, nor will the Agency be able to draw meaningful conclusions about the impact of the project to Attawapiskat First Nation's inherent and Treaty rights and interests.

We remind you that, as a Treaty partner, Canada has the obligation to work with us, with the goal of securing our consent to proposed development. Canada's UNDRIP Action Plan (2023-2028) tells us that the Impact Assessment Agency has committed to "maximizing Indigenous collaboration and partnership," "carrying out impact assessments in a manner that emphasizes the need to seek free, prior, and informed consent," "early, consistent, and meaningful engagement and participation through all phases of impact assessment," and "respect for Indigenous rights, culture and jurisdiction," among other things.

The compressed timeline for impact assessment under which you are currently operating, and the February 27th deadline for considering whether the proponent's impact statement is adequate, when we have already told you that the impact statement contains many gaps and inaccuracies, does not constitute meaningful engagement, does not respect our rights, culture, and jurisdiction, and certainly does not "maximize Indigenous collaboration and partnership." It does not provide adequate information and time, and does not allow us to exercise our right to free, prior, and informed consent.

The proponent claims in Section 21 (p. 273) of the Final Impact Statement, that "The assessment of cumulative effects on Indigenous Peoples and Impacts to the Exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights is still to be determined and the assessment has not been fully completed due to limited input from communities on their interpretation or expressed impacts to their rights." We point out that, in the case of Attawapiskat First Nation, the "limited input from communities on their interpretation or expressed impacts to their rights" is a direct consequence of the lack of response from the proponent, Canada, and Ontario to our questions on the biophysical impacts of the project.

Regarding our above-stated concerns, please respond to us, and those copied here, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Deputy Chief Kara Fireman

Attawapiskat First Nation

cc.

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