



Ginoogaming First Nation
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To: Webequie Supply Road Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
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Email: webequie@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Cc: Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations
Economic Reconciliation and Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire
Economic and Community Partnerships
Email: greg.rickford@pc.ola.org, minister.indigenousaffairs@ontario.ca

Re: Ginoogaming First Nation Comments on Webequie Supply Road Impact Assessment Report and Conditions of Approval

I'm writing to express Ginoogaming First Nation's serious concerns about the Webequie Supply Road Project (WSR; the Project). As we have consistently stated verbally and on the written record, **GFN does not support development related to the Ring of Fire without our consent. We will only provide our consent if we secure accommodation measures that are commensurate with the scale and severity of the anticipated impacts to GFN's Treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests from the development of the entire Ring of Fire road network and associated mining development. We insist that these accommodation discussions commence immediately. Our Nation will consider all options to ensure that our Treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests are honoured by the Crown.**

The WSR looks to be the first Project in the Ring of Fire (RoF) road network that will receive Federal and Provincial approvals to proceed to construction. Given our clear and consistent position grounded in our Treaty and Aboriginal rights, it is essential for the Crown to recognize the significant implications this approval has for our Nation. While the WSR is further from our Reserve community than the southernmost region of the RoF road network, the WSR is only viable as a Project if the further southern segments are approved as well. By approving the WSR,

Canada and Ontario are implicitly approving the southernmost road segments as well. This means that a decision on the WSR has implications for the entire route, and far greater impacts on GFN rights and interests than if we were to examine these projects in isolation. Ginoogaming considers all connected roads to be part of this road network, leading to deep and cumulative impacts to the rights and lifeways of our community.

GFN homelands extend throughout the entirety of the RoF road network. Our people have lived in this region since time immemorial. GFN citizens exercise their rights, have Tazhiikaywinin (traps), conduct ceremony, harvest food and medicines, and care for sacred sites along the corridor of the network. All will suffer severe, perhaps irreversible impacts should the road network proceed. There are absolutely no considerations of these severe impacts in the current assessment.

Despite the obvious and severe impacts to our Treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests from the WSR, GFN was identified in Section 4.1.1 of the IA Report as a "community with an interest in the Project". This is a euphemism for Canada arguing that our Nation is not impacted by the Project. Such a statement is flatly incorrect, and there are no reputable grounds to make such a claim. **GFN insists on being added to the list of communities whose Section 35 rights may be impacted by the Project.** By treating GFN as a peripheral rather than a highly impacted rights-holder, the assessment understates the Project's environmental, cultural, and intergenerational impacts on our Nation.

Our Nation is deeply concerned and frustrated by the fact that the Impact Assessment process is utterly failing to capture the true impacts from the RoF road network and impacts to our Treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests. **Ginoogaming First Nation cannot allow the Crown's failure to honour and respect our rights to pass unnoticed. We insist on commencing bilateral negotiations immediately.**

Miigwetch,



Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming First Nation

On behalf of Ginoogaming First Nation Chief & Council

cc. Hon. Todd McCarthy, MECP (minister.mecp@ontario.ca)
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