



MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION
ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

December 16, 2019

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Ontario Region
55 York St,
Suite 600
Toronto, ON M5J 1R7

Re: Impact Assessment by Agency

Sent via e-mail

Dear Ms. Calabrese,

Based on your letter dated December 2, 2019 to confirm acceptance of the Detailed Project Description and notification that an impact assessment is required for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project, I am writing to you to provide our view on whether the assessment of the Project should continue to be led by the Agency, or whether the Minister of Environment and Climate Change should refer the Project to a review panel.

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) has been seeking an All-Season Community Access Road (the Project) to the provincial highways for several years. Our significant and concentrated efforts over the past 3 years have led us to this point in the process where we are now looking forward to completing a Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

The all-season community access road EA is a community led process for Marten Falls and the community is the proponent of the road study to connect the community. The project team includes community members who work under the direction of Chief and Council and get direct input and direction from the community through community meetings. This makes our process unique where Indigenous perspectives guide decision making throughout the process.

Throughout the EA process, we are seeking collaborative discussions about our proposed road with neighbouring Indigenous communities and continue to provide opportunities to consult on the project where MFFN community members, as part of the project team, directly participate in consultation events. Through on-going consultation with regulatory bodies, stakeholders and neighbouring Indigenous communities, MFFN will be able to identify potential adverse effects early enough to provide measures to avoid and mitigate potentially significant adverse effects.





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The Project is linear and will have localized potential Project related effects related to a narrow corridor and while we are having broad conversations with all stakeholders, we are also working closely with Indigenous communities close to the corridor and their members so that their perspectives and values can inform route selection. This further addresses localized impacts on a narrow corridor. The Project is already being conducted in coordination with other jurisdictions, including but not limited to the provincial agencies of Ontario. To date, the inter-agency approach in discussing the planning efforts, design and coordination of information has been successful and MFFN is committed to continue this process.

Based on the current coordinated EA process and the leadership of my community, it is our view that the Agency should continue to lead the EA.

We hope that you will take our view into consideration and that the Agency will continue to lead the EA. In the event that the Minister still decides to appoint a panel, we would like to have a discussion on the composition of the panel before any decisions are made.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum

