



# ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION

P.O. Box 248  
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March 31, 2020

## SENT VIA EMAIL

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**The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson,**  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change,  
Canada  
200, Sacré-Coeur Blvd, 2nd Floor  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3  
(Email: [Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca))

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

### Re: Ring of Fire Road

Attawapiskat has been trying to participate in the federal IA for the Webequie and Marten Falls First Nations' access roads. We have made comments on the Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, and are hereby notifying the IAAC that we require more time to comment on the Draft Indigenous Engagement and partnership Plan. The IAA guidance indicates that affected indigenous parties should play more of a key and lead role in developing their input to the IA, and this needs to be reflected in the Plan.

But a preliminary issue we now face is that there are multiple IAs/EAs about what is essentially one connected road network, that will lead to the RoF. While we have no issues with the concept of remote First Nations being connected to a road grid in order to no longer be remote, we have significant issues with facilitating the commencement of a massive mining complex at the Ring of Fire, by trying to hide this under a fragmented and broken picture. This is like distorting the true image in a mirror by breaking the glass into many fragments.

We now have the following occurring:

1. The IAA regular processes for these Webequie / MFFN access road IAs.
2. The need for provincial EAs (class EAs most likely) for these Webequie / MFFN access roads.
3. The announcement there will be a third road – the North Link road to the RoF – supported by Ontario, Webequie, MFFN.

4. The announcement that there will be a REGIONAL IA for the entire RoF.
5. The renewed tripartite relationship – Attawapiskat / Canada / Ontario, signed by the relevant Ministers in July 2019.

As a result of all of this, Attawapiskat First Nation will require a meeting of the principals of federal IAAC on both the individual IAs for the access roads and the regional IA, and the Ontario MECP and other Ministry representatives (as Ontario determines) in order to determine:

1. How the above processes can be integrated, and how Attawapiskat can be and will be included in all.
2. How Attawapiskat will be funded in the above.
3. Communications protocol and contacts, to keep all processes coordinated.
4. Next steps.

We are aware that some processes and plans are being delayed because of the Covid 19 situation. We are concerned that some things may be moving forward. **We require a response from you by no later than April 17 as follows:**

- 1. We require Canada to confirm that no further steps will be taken in and toward any federal regulatory approval processes, including impact assessments, and in any consultations under section 35 or otherwise, on these projects, as long as the Covid 19 situation is causing isolation to be required in Ontario.**
- 2. We require confirmation from IAAC and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (cc'ed here) that you will meet with Chief and Council and our advisors, as soon as practicable after the isolation is lifted.**
- 3. We require confirmation that such persons (as in number 2 above) will agree to a phone meeting with Attawapiskat and our advisors to discuss work that can be done and steps that can be taken to advance the purposes of the in-person meeting, while isolation is still in effect.**

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Chief David Nakogee

DN/osr

cc: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett,  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Canada ([carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca](mailto:carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca))

The Honourable Marc Miller,  
Minister of Indigenous Services, Canada ([Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca))

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The Right Honourable Doug Ford,  
Premier of Ontario ([doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org))

The Honourable Greg Rickford,  
Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Minister of Energy,  
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The Honourable Caroline Mulroney,  
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The Honourable John Yakabuski,  
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The Honourable Jeff Yurek,  
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Attawapiskat Council

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