

Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

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Federal Authority Advice Record

Response due to IAAC.RegionalRoF-CdFRegionale.AEIC@Canada.ca by January 15, 2021

Department/Agency	Employment & Social Development Canada
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PART 1 – In providing your responses to the items below, please include any relevant information on associated Indigenous, public or other consultation or engagement activities and identify any partners or collaborations.

1. MANDATE AND AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE

Clearly outline the mandate of your department or agency and detail your area(s) of responsibility or expertise that may be related to the regional assessment

The Minister’s powers, duties and functions extend to and include all matters relating to human resources and skills development in Canada or the social development of Canada over which Parliament has jurisdiction and which are not by law assigned to any other Minister, department, board or agency of the Government of Canada.

2. REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

List and summarize the nature of the regulatory authorities of your department or agency in relation to physical works or activities in the Ring of Fire area.

Should any such activities or physical works occur, the Canada Labour Code would be responsible for federally regulated industries and workplaces in the private sector (Parts I, II and III of the Code). Labour standards such as minimum wage, hours of

work, working conditions and fairness in the workplace depend on legislation such as the Canada Labour Code. The Labour Program administers and enforces these and other laws and regulations to ensure that all Canadian workers are treated fairly and receive proper compensation for their work.

3. EXPERT INFORMATION OR KNOWLEDGE

List and summarize the specialists or expert information or knowledge that your department or agency has that may be relevant to the regional assessment. Include all research, reports and data sets in this response inventory.

ESDC has information and expert knowledge related to the following relevant fields: social development, learning, skills development, employment, unemployment, underrepresented groups, and; working conditions and workplace relations.

4. POLICIES, PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES

List and summarize the past, current and planned policies, programs or initiatives of your department or agency that may be relevant to the regional assessment. Include an outline of related funding initiatives in this response and provide information on geographic locations, next steps and timing for the program/initiative.

Beyond the scope of any particular Regional Assessment, ESDC has a series of guidance materials for potential Proponents to find and hire candidates across the country. Furthermore, ESDC can provide some assistance on training and skills development for employees, and underrepresented groups through a suite of programs. The following links provide information on ESDC training and employment programs that could be useful to proponents in the region:

Job Bank:

<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/hiring/resources/train-employees>

Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/indigenous-skills-employment-training.html>

Sectoral Initiatives Program:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/sectoral-initiatives-program.html>

5. Outline any additional responsibilities, information or knowledge and any partners or collaborations that have not been specified, above.

ESDC collaborates with the Service Canada regional offices to assist in validating labour market information provided by the proponent and for providing targeted local labour market information.

PART 2 – To contribute to the design of the regional assessment process and development of the terms of reference, please provide information or advice in relation to the items below.

1. potential outcomes of the regional assessment;

Where the Regional Assessment transcends the Impact Assessment analysis by:

- Understanding regional context;
- Providing more comprehensive analyses to inform future IA decisions; and
- Informing cumulative effects analysis in project-specific IAs.

There is an opportunity for the RA process to examine crosscutting issues through a broader lens. (I.E. The cumulative net benefits to local economies when examining factors such as direct, indirect and induced employment opportunities)

2. relevant geographic and temporal boundaries;

Analyzing the generational impacts resulting from an influx of projects in a particular region could be a valuable tool in determining the true long-term effects on local populations. For example, how can an improved regional analysis for project planning help to prevent or mitigate boom-bust cycles and the following economic impacts? How could the benefits of enhanced employment opportunities be sustained in the region over time? Which mechanisms are most effective to ensure that the local labour force (primarily Indigenous) benefits from economic opportunities presented by these projects?

3. factors to be considered in the regional assessment and the scope of those factors;

The Regional Assessment may wish to consider the following factors:

- the current socio-demographic characteristics of the region;
- the labour force characteristics by age group and sex (if possible) of all impacted communities including the availability of skilled and unskilled workers, existing working conditions, wages and/or average salary range, full-time and part-time employment and training;
- the main economic activities in the study area
- the current and anticipated economic landscape in the Ring of Fire;
- employment barriers to participation for under-represented groups in the region (ex: Official Language Minority Community populations, Indigenous populations, etc.) and how they will be addressed

4. means of communication and engagement that would best facilitate participation of your department or agency in the regional assessment; and

ESDC remains available to participate in meetings led by the IAA and focused working groups (I.e. socioeconomic). Requests are best sent by email to the lead and alternate contacts listed above

5. input or advice on any other aspect of the regional assessment. N/A