



October 24, 2023

Jarred Picher
Parks Canada
jarred.picher@pc.gc.ca

Dear Jarred Picher:

On February 10, 2020, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change determined that a regional assessment (RA) will be conducted in an area centred on the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in northern Ontario. The planning phase of the RA has been in progress since that time and has focused on building Indigenous relations, collaboration with the Province of Ontario and engaging with federal authorities.

In January 2023, the Minister met with Indigenous leaders and committed to a co-led process between the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), Indigenous groups who have traditional territory in the region, and potentially the Province of Ontario. Dialogue focused on the best means of advancing relationships and co-developing a Terms of Reference that reflects the priorities of Indigenous communities and the federal and provincial governments. (See [Letter from Minister](#) for further details.)

Working group meetings are now underway between the Agency and Indigenous partners, with the Province of Ontario currently attending as an observer. The objective of the working group is to develop a co-led process, with the goal of a finalized co-developed Terms of Reference in early 2024.

On December 7, 2020, in accordance with section 100 of the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Agency requested input from federal authorities to inform the design of the RA process, as well as outline their mandate and

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areas of expertise, including regulatory authority, expert knowledge, and on-going programming in the Ring of Fire area. Responses received are available on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site](#) (the Registry). In order to ensure that the Agency records are up to date, we are requesting that federal authorities provide an update to the original Federal Authority Advice Record (Annex 1).

Please ensure that your designated official responds to the items detailed in the attachment to this letter by November 20, 2023. Any additional information not specified in the attachment may also be provided. Your response will be posted on the Registry. Note that, all records produced, collected, or received that are relevant to the RA will be posted on the Registry unless they are excluded for privacy or security reasons, or are determined to be otherwise protected or excluded.

Thank you in advance for your department's continued participation in planning the RA in the Ring of Fire area. You will be contacted at a later date about opportunities for involvement in the on-going planning and eventual conduct of the RA. The Agency is available should participants have any questions or wish to discuss further. The response form may be directed to the RA generic inbox: regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Brent Parker
Director General
Review Panels and Regional and Strategic Assessment

c.c.: Katherine Cumming

ANNEX 1

Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

October 24, 2023

Federal Authority Advice Record

Response due to regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca by November 20, 2023

Department/Agency	Parks Canada
Lead RA Contact(s)	Katherine Cumming
Full Address	145 McDermot Ave, Winnipeg, MB
Email	katherine.cumming@pc.gc.ca
Telephone	431-373-1340
Alternate Departmental Contact	

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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;
2. relevant geographic and temporal boundaries;
3. factors to be considered in the regional assessment and the scope of those factors;
4. means of communication and engagement that would best facilitate participation of your department or agency in the regional assessment; and
5. input or advice on any other aspect of the regional assessment.