

Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area FEDNOR- Federal Authority Advice Record

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 Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor), has the mandate to promote economic growth, diversification, job creation and sustainable, self-reliant communities in Northern Ontario. Through its programs and services, and its financial support of projects that lead to job creation and economic growth, FedNor works with businesses and community partners to build a stronger Northern Ontario.

As a funder, pathfinder, convener and advocate, FedNor helps Northern Ontario communities (indigenous and non-indigenous) obtain federal government funding to participate in the planning, development and implementation of infrastructure projects linked to regional economic development opportunities. This includes providing financial assistance towards Indigenous-led projects and in support of organizations that provide services to Indigenous Peoples.

FedNor can provide expertise related to the economy and economic development activity in Northern Ontario.

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.


FedNor does not have any regulatory authorities in relation to physical works or activities in the Ring of Fire area. All projects submitted to FedNor that are on federal lands are reviewed to assess any environmental impacts as part of the impact assessment process before funding is recommended and approved.

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.

FedNor has established working relationships with key stakeholders engaged in assessing regional and community economic issues and opportunities such as labour market demand and supply. FedNor may provide copies of/or contact coordinates for access to specific socio-economic reports or studies related to the economic development opportunities stemming from the road and the Ring of Fire.

Resource Name	Description	Document
Community Futures Profile for Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund	The report provides the statistical tables and charts on the demographics, economic activities and social characteristics of the area serviced by a Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) in Ontario. The data was prepared for FedNor by Statistics Canada to assist CFDCs in their economic development activities.	 2023 - FedNor - Nishnawbe Aske DF
Community Futures Profile for Wakenagun	The report provides the statistical tables and charts on the demographics, economic activities and social characteristics of the area serviced by a Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) in Ontario. The data was prepared for FedNor by Statistics Canada to assist CFDCs in their economic development activities.	 2023 - FedNor - Wakenagun.pdf
Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario (PGSNO)	The Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario (PGSNO) is the Government of Canada's targeted approach to regional economic development. Established in 2018, it is aligned with a range of federal and provincial government priorities.	Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario (PGSNO)
Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario - Mining Backgrounder	This report was developed to inform the facilitators and other staff that participated in engagement sessions. The backgrounder generally covers the context involving the subject in Northern Ontario, the current state of orbiting subjects such as job numbers, business counts, and demographics, updates on existing disputes,	 PGSNO-Mining Backgrounder-EN-2f

	partnerships, or initiatives, possible challenges and opportunities that could have been raised during engagement sessions, and a quick snapshot of available federal and provincial programming targeted at a specific subject. The backgrounder attached discusses the mining sector in Northern Ontario.	
PSGNO What We heard report- 2025	From July to October 2024, FedNor heard from 300+ stakeholders through 22 virtual and in-person engagement sessions and 22 written submissions to inform updating the strategy.	Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario (PGSNO) - What We Heard
Learning From One Another: Labour Markets in Northern Ontario	This primer, from the Conference Board of Canada, provides an overview of Northern Ontario's labour market conditions, including labour recruitment and retention challenges.	 Learning From One Another_ Labour Ma

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.

All FedNor programs and initiatives are available to all organizations located in Northern Ontario. FedNor receives applications on a continuous intake basis. The FedNor coverage area is available [here](#).

The current funding programs and initiatives at FedNor that may be relevant to the Regional Assessment for the Ring Of Fire Area are:

A. Northern Ontario Development Program (NODP)

Through its Northern Ontario Development Program, FedNor invests in projects led by municipalities, First Nations, and other organizations and institutions that support community economic development, diversification, job creation and self-reliant communities in Northern Ontario. Funding may be prioritized under the priorities of:

Community Economic Development

FedNor targets its support to help rural and remote communities create the conditions necessary for economic growth and development. This includes investments in projects such as strategic community and business planning, strengthening of communities' industrial and business assets, implementation of priority initiatives, as well as support for youth internships.

Community Investment Initiative for Northern Ontario

Funding is available for small communities or First Nations to hire a qualified individual to help develop the local economy. This economic development professional will work to foster opportunities and partnerships in the region and help implement strategies that seek to strengthen the community and create jobs.

B. Community Futures Program (CFP)

Through its Community Futures Program (CFP), FedNor supports 24 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) located throughout Northern Ontario. These community-based, not-for-profit organizations are staffed by professionals and are each governed by a local volunteer board of directors familiar with their communities' needs, concerns and future development priorities. CFDCs offer a wide variety of programs and services supporting community economic development and small business growth.

In particular, they provide:

- Strategic community planning and socio-economic development;
- Business information and planning services; and
- Access to capital for small and medium-sized businesses and social enterprises.

C. Regional Economic Growth Through Innovation (REGI)

FedNor delivers two streams of programming to help entrepreneurs start and grow businesses and create the conditions for the development of strong, dynamic and inclusive regional innovation ecosystems across the country:

Business scale-up and productivity - Funding offered under this program stream helps businesses at various stages of development, including high-growth firms, to accelerate growth and adopt innovative technologies that support scale-up, commercialization, productivity and market expansion to become more competitive globally.

Regional innovation ecosystems - Funding under this program stream helps not-for-profit organizations create, grow and develop strong and inclusive regional networks that support business growth and innovation. This will foster the entrepreneurial environment necessary for more innovative regional economies and increase the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

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

N/A