

Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

Public Call for Information and Data

As part of the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area, the Working Group leading the assessment is seeking information and data to support the meaningful conduct of the Regional Assessment. This work will focus on scenario development and community studies to better understand current and potential future effects of development in the Ring of Fire area.

Context

In February 2020, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (Minister) announced a regional assessment (RA) is to be completed, centered on the “Ring of Fire” area. An RA process was launched in January 2023, co-led by 15 First Nation Partners and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC). For more information, please see: [Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area](#).

The Regional Assessment will:

- gather information and data on the region;
- understand potential effects from past, existing and future development in the Ring of Fire area, including cumulative and interactive effects;
- inform future impact assessments; and
- identify and provide recommendations on how the potential effects may best be managed to avoid adverse consequences, enhance positive ones and how this should happen.

Assessment Priorities

Assessment Priorities were identified by the Regional Assessment Working Group (RAWG) and represent key environmental, health, social, cultural and economic conditions that may be affected due to development activities and interacting cumulative effects.

They reflect the priorities and values of First Nation Partners and the jurisdictions of the federal government, and include social, environmental, health, cultural and economic conditions, as well as impacts on Indigenous Peoples and their Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

The Assessment Priorities are:

- To be well together (Community wellbeing)
- Cultural and spiritual wellbeing
- Social and Economic Equity
- Healthy Environment Relationships

Call for information and data

An essential component of the conduct phase of the Regional Assessment is the gathering of existing knowledge, information and studies. The Working Group is reaching out to invite individuals, organisations, and other knowledge holders to contribute to an inventory of information pertaining to the Ring of Fire area.

- Please use the following tables to identify any **studies, data sets, or other sources of information** that you hold or know of that may be relevant to the four Assessment Priorities, and the specific topics identified within each Priority area. Add additional space as necessary!
- Keep in mind that the list of potential topics listed for each Priority is not exhaustive. These have been listed in order of priority, as identified by the RAWG, with topics of specific interest underlined.
- Please note any relevant details about the study (including subject, scope, etc.) as well as **where/ how it can be accessed** (including hyperlinks, web addresses, etc. as possible). Please feel free to submit multiple tables if additional space is required.
- Please also identify **your contact information**, and additional notes, in particular if you have **ongoing or future projects** associated with each topic, and/ or **funding** that could support information gathering.

Next Steps

The RAWG will compile all responses received and follow up with the individuals and organizations that are seen to have relevant information and data.

Please note that data and information utilized in this Regional Assessment will generally be made publicly accessible through the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry according to IAAC's principles of openness and transparency.

Exceptions apply for information that is considered private, confidential, or subject to legitimate restrictions (e.g. proprietary journal articles, CSA standards, Traditional or Indigenous Knowledge). Where there are concerns related to privacy and confidentiality, please provide a brief explanation of the concern without disclosing the information, and include how you would like this information handled. The Working Group will follow up to discuss proper procedures for the use and management of the information.

Please send the completed table(s) by email to regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca (generic inbox administered by IAAC on behalf of the Working Group) by **September 30, 2025**.

NOTE for community members of First Nation Partners: If there is information you would like to submit, but feel is of a sensitive or confidential nature (Indigenous Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, etc.) feel free to share your concerns and contact directly either the Mushkegowuk or Matawa Tribal Councils.

Assessment Priority: To be well together (Community wellbeing)

- **Community Safety:** Policing of roads; Drug trafficking; Safety supports/ programs; Safety issues around mining/ work camps (ex: substance use, violence, MMIWG2S); Human trafficking; Environmental hazards & areas of concern; Evacuation plans
- **Family, Youth and Children:** Poverty and Homelessness; Elder care; Impacts on the family unit; Services and supports for children and families
- **Housing and Infrastructure:** Overall housing picture; Infrastructure development and maintenance; Community infrastructure deficit; Land base expansion; Transportation infrastructure; Waste management and recycling
- **Education:** Special needs within communities; Distance education opportunities; Education levels within communities
- **Food security:** Food shipping and storage; Potential for growing food locally; Food insecurity, costs and subsidies
- **Economic development and livelihoods:** Cost of living; Power supply ownership opportunities; Renewable energies; Employment and jobs availability; Building community economic development; Potential for members to fill project jobs
- **Community Health:** Mental wellness; Health issues (incl. rare and chronic conditions)

Description Provide a general description of this information (title, topic, timeframe, geographic extent, purpose, etc.)	Holder and Availability Who is/are the author(s) or owner(s)? To whom/ how is the information available?	Format e.g.: databases, reports, shapefiles, oral communications, print (i.e. not digitized), etc.	Limitations or Restrictions Is the information or data already public? Are there access or costs restrictions? Is it confidential? Is it Indigenous Knowledge?

Assessment Priority: Cultural and Spiritual wellbeing

- **Physical and cultural heritage:** Sites of archaeological significance; Historical trade routes and ecological corridors; Identification of routes, corridors, and cultural sites linked to routes and corridors
- **Cultural vitality and traditional practices:** Loss of cultural practices, ceremonies, etc.
- **Continued way of life, Aboriginal and Treaty rights:** Enacting and protecting rights, way of life; Treaty rights education
- **Community- based teachings:** Oral history vs. Crown info
- **Language maintenance and revival:** Use of traditional languages
- **Traditional processes for decision- making:** Potential for new governance structures
- **Exercise of natural law**

Description Provide a general description of this information (title, topic, timeframe, geographic extent, purpose, etc.)	Holder and Availability Who is/are the author(s) or owner(s)? To whom/ how is the information available?	Format e.g.: databases, reports, shapefiles, oral communications, print (i.e. not digitized), etc.	Limitations or Restrictions Is the information or data already public? Are there access or costs restrictions? Is it confidential? Is it Indigenous Knowledge?

Assessment Priority: Social and Economic Equity

- **Intra- and inter-generational values:** Income distribution within communities
- **Social and Economic conditions, incl. immediate and long-term benefits:** Potential partnerships with developers; Industry investment in communities; Regional collective approaches to Ec. Dev.; Capturing economic benefits of projects; Economic leakage
- **Diverse economies and livelihoods:** Land-based economy; Workforce participation
- **Indigenous Women, girls and 2S individuals:** Economic barriers and benefits for women; Childcare; Violence and harassment
- **Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes:** On-the- land activities; Harvesting
- **Access to skill development and economic opportunities:** Successes and challenges re: education/ employment; Indigenous employment at projects

Description Provide a general description of this information (title, topic, timeframe, geographic extent, purpose, etc.)	Holder and Availability Who is/are the author(s) or owner(s)? To whom/ how is the information available?	Format e.g.: databases, reports, shapefiles, oral communications, print (i.e. not digitized), etc.	Limitations or Restrictions Is the information or data already public? Are there access or costs restrictions? Is it confidential? Is it Indigenous Knowledge?

Assessment Priority: Healthy environment relationships

- **Water and river systems, incl. flows:** Groundwater effects; Water usage (processing); Changes to flow (dams)
- **Wildlife and habitat, incl. SAR, birds, fish:** Effects on harvest species; Impacts on ecological corridors; Effects to spiritual beings; New species making use of road corridors; Higher risk of roadkills; Impacts to breeding and migratory areas
- **Peatlands and other unique environments:** Effects of disrupting peatlands; Permafrost;
- **Forest ecosystems, incl. plants:** ITK, 2- eyed seeing in Forest Management Plans; Impacts due to clear cutting
- **Climate change adaptation:** Use of fossil fuels for electricity; Change in species
- **Biodiversity:** Change in biodiversity

Description Provide a general description of this information (title, topic, timeframe, geographic extent, purpose, etc.)	Holder and Availability Who is/are the author(s) or owner(s)? To whom/ how is the information available?	Format e.g.: databases, reports, shapefiles, oral communications, print (i.e. not digitized), etc.	Limitations or Restrictions Is the information or data already public? Are there access or costs restrictions? Is it confidential? Is it Indigenous Knowledge?
Soil samples (surface to mineral layer) and peat depth measurements, collected in July 2024 and July 2025. ~250km radius around Napken Lake.	PI: Catherine Dieleman and Frances Stewart ECCC, Matawa Concil.	Raw data files (.xls, .csv, etc.)	These data are not currently public, as it was collected on Treaty 9 lands
279 Wildlife tracking cameras deployed between 2022 and 2025, many paired to Soil and Veg information sites ~250km radius around Napken Lake.	PI: Catherine Dieleman and Frances Stewart ECCC, Matawa Concil.	Raw data files (.xls, .csv, etc.), images, and access to a WildTrax database.	These data are not currently public, as it was collected on Treaty 9 lands.
Tree stand ages, vegetation surveys, biomass measurements (select tree spp.), collected in July 2024 and July 2025. ~250km radius around Napken Lake.	PI: Catherine Dieleman and Frances Stewart ECCC, Matawa Concil.	Raw data files (.xls, .csv, etc.)	These data are not currently public, as it was collected on Treaty 9 lands.

Contact Information Form

Name of individual(s) or organization	Dr. Catherine Dieleman, University of Guelph
Point of contact	Catherine Dieleman
Full address	220 Alexander Hall, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph ON, Canada N1G 2W1
Email	cdielema@uoguelph.ca
Telephone	519-824-4120
Alternate contact	fstewart@wlu.ca (Frances Stewart, Wilfrid Laurier University)
<p>Please provide a brief overview of your organization and its activities and interests relevant to the Regional Assessment. The NorthCore and WILD Research groups at the University of Guelph and the Wilfrid Laurier University respectively, have been coordinating low impact sampling across the James Bay Lowlands since 2024. To date the program has paired vegetation, soil, and wildlife information from 42 unique locations spanning the ecoregion, including the Ring of Fire mining claims</p>	

The Regional Assessment Working Group also invites you to comment on:

1. Whether you know of information or data on topics that are not listed above, but that you believe would be relevant to this Regional Assessment.

None at this time
2. Any economic, technical, linguistic or other obstacles that may restrict or prevent you, your community or your organization from participating in this call for information.

None at this time
3. Any other notes or comments you would like to bring to the attention of the Working Group.

None at this time

Thank you for your contribution to the Regional Assessment process.

If you have any questions, please contact the Working Group via the generic inbox administered by IAAC at regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.