

Comments from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) on the
Regional Assessment of the St. Lawrence River Area Terms of Reference – Draft for discussion

Extracts from the <i>Regional Assessment of the St. Lawrence River Area Terms of Reference – Draft for discussion</i>	Comments	Suggested additions in green / Suggested deletions in cross-hatching
Section 2 Definitions (p.2)	"baseline conditions" means the state of assessment priorities which represents the minimum environmental and/or socio-economic reference conditions against which to evaluate effects of future projects within the assessment area.	ISC-FNIHB-01: Certain assessment priorities identified in section 4.1 (Environment, health, social, cultural and economic conditions, etc.) are not identified in the definition of "baseline conditions".
Section 2 Definitions (p.3)	Unless the context indicates otherwise, "effects" means, unless the context requires otherwise, changes to the environment or to health, social or economic conditions and the positive and negative consequences of these changes (s.2 of IAA).	ISC-FNIHB-02: For a better understanding of the scope of the regional assessment, a definition of "adverse effects under federal jurisdiction" could be added. This would also be relevant since the definition of "Mitigation Measures" refers to "Adverse effects under Federal Jurisdiction".
Section 3 Goal and objectives of	" The main goal of this Regional Assessment is to gain a deeper insight into the state of the St. Lawrence River	ISC-FNIHB-03: The gains mentioned could make more reference to the assessment
		"baseline conditions" means the state of assessment priorities which represents the minimum environment, health, social, cultural and economic environmental and/or socio-economic reference conditions against which to evaluate effects of future projects within the assessment area. "adverse effects under federal jurisdiction" means, with respect to a physical activity or a designated project, [...] (e) with respect to the Indigenous peoples of Canada, a non-negligible adverse impact — occurring in Canada and resulting from any change to the environment — on (i) physical and cultural heritage, (ii) the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, or (iii) any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance; (f) a non-negligible adverse change occurring in Canada to the health, social or economic conditions of the Indigenous peoples of Canada;

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<p>the regional assessment, section 3.1 Goal :</p>	<p>within the assessment area¹ by assessing the relationships between targeted physical activities, complementary activities, and the ecosystems within which they operate. In this way, a set of baseline and targeted conditions, which take into account both Indigenous knowledge and modern Western science, can be established to better evaluate the effects of activities. This set of conditions will help to identify strategies for these activities and other efforts to achieve environmental and social gains that improve upon present day conditions in an efficient, collaborative manner. "</p>	<p>priorities presented in section 4.1, e.g. environment and health, social, cultural and economic conditions.</p> <p>The potential gains in terms of health and well-being for Indigenous Peoples could also be highlighted, as they are likely to be influenced by all of the assessment priorities.</p> <p>The potential effects of projects on the health and well-being of First Nations communities are also concerns frequently raised in impact assessment processes.</p>	<p>between targeted physical activities, complementary activities, and the ecosystems within which they operate. In this way, a set of baseline and targeted conditions, which take into account both Indigenous knowledge and modern Western science, can be established to better evaluate the effects of activities. This set of conditions will help to identify strategies for these activities and other efforts to achieve environmental and social gains (including health and well-being gains for First Nations communities) that improve upon present day conditions in an efficient, collaborative manner. "</p>
<p>Section 5- Regional Assessment Working Group</p>	<p>ISC-04 : Appendix 1 illustrates the structure of the Working Group and Advisory Groups, however the text does not clearly identify that the Working Group will be co-led by IAAC and MCK. If this is the case, please identify the co-leadership of the Working Group in the text.</p>		

Reference: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2025. *Regional Assessment of the St. Lawrence River Area Terms of Reference – Draft for discussion*, <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/160923?culture=fr-CA>

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