

February 29, 2024

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Attn: Anjala Puvananathan

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GEORGINA ISLAND FIXED LINK PROJECT 83539

Please accept this letter as a follow up to our original submission on the Initial Project Plan which we filed with the IAAC on May 27, 2022.

We have been advised that the Georgina Island First Nations are intending to file their Detailed Project Description with the IAAC imminently. We have reviewed the 36 technical comments on the project completed by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and concur that there is a lot more work that needs to be undertaken before a project of this magnitude can proceed.

We also have been participating deeply in the review of the Bradford Bypass highway and our concerns about the lake's health and the impacts of new roads have grown. We would like to ensure that any and all future highways are dealt with in a manner that goes beyond the way the province of Ontario has streamlined Environmental Assessments. Indeed, GIFN promised best in class studies and so far the reviews have not determined that the planning for this highway meets that bar. More work is needed.

Finally, as a grassroots organization, we are concerned about the project's grassroots support. We have worked with First Nations grassroots members many times, on Lake Simcoe issues, and therefore it is important to us that this project is truly supported by its proponents. Ian Big Canoe's letter makes clear that there is still work to be done to address the concerns of a significant portion of band members. We encourage those involved to work together to propose a path forward that will be consistent with both leadership and membership.

We are asking the IAAC to submit this project to a full Impact Assessment to ensure that the proper studies are completed and the impact on the lake is understood.

On Behalf of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

Respectfully,

<Original signed by>

Claire Malcolmson
Executive Director