



**SMOOTH
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The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Terence Hubbard
President
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H3

March 15, 2023

Re: The Crawford Nickel Federal Impact Assessment

Dear Minister Guilbeault and Mr. Hubbard,

We are writing to you today in regards to the Canada Nickel Company's (CNC) Crawford Nickle Project currently developing in our area and the Federal Impact assessment process involved with the project.

The Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Project is one of the most significant projects the area has seen and has the potential to significantly affect the development of many communities in our region. The Corporation of the Town of Smooth Rock Falls and its residents have shown great support in the development of this project and both the town and its residents and have been actively communicating opinions and concerns with Canada Nickle throughout the consultation process. The Town has been invited to participate through an in-person public meeting, through their Procurement Policy Committee, their Environmental Committee and more recently a with a site tour, these were all opportunities where we were able to voice our concerns and share our opinions and our knowledge of the area.



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Early on, our community identified a concern regarding the flow of water from the project area to the Mattagami River from which our drinking water is being drawn downstream from the project the same as multiple First Nation Communities downstream all the way to James Bay. Our community was able to voice our concerns early and a member of the Ontario Clean Water Association (OCWA), our water service provider, was added to one of their committees to ensure our drinking water source will remain safe for future generations. This was a quick and easy process to have important representation on a committee where some of the decisions will affect us directly. We believe that CNC and IAAC are working diligently with all surrounding communities to ensure they have an in-depth understanding of the region and how this project will affect it so that the review can give proper guidance to CNC during their development stage.

Our community is confident that CNC and the IAAC will offer us meaningful opportunities to provide feedback including a planned public event in May and one in August. Our experience with the group has been positive and we know our comments, opinions and concerns have been and will continue to be valued. We believe the IAAC will be able to complete the assessment process efficiently and effectively with the public's best interest in mind.

We were made aware of a letter submitted by Apitipi Anicinapek Nation regarding a request for a Joint Review panel, and wished to submit our own comments on the matter.

We thank you for taking the time to review our response and look forward to further collaboration throughout the remainder of the Assessment Process.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our position, we hope to have many opportunities to discuss the project further with your group.

Warmest regards,

<Original signed by>

Patrick Roberts

Mayor for the Corporation of the Town of Smooth Rock Falls