



MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION

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Crawford Nickel Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
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To whom it may concern,

Since time immemorial, Mattagami has long been home to the Anishinaabe and OjiCree people from the Mattagami River area and as far north as the Moose River headwaters on the James Bay coast. The First Nation is located on the northwest side of the beautiful Mattagami Lake. Before the arrival of European settlers, the Anishinaabe and Oji-Cree maintained a life based on the land where they thrived through hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering.

Mattagami's cultural continuity and ways of life are closely woven within our traditional values, our ways of life and our ability to exercise our rights. Impacts on the land impact on our spirituality, our sense of place and belonging and our overall Treaty rights. It is critically important to preserve opportunities for intergenerational knowledge transference and learning for our membership. Our relations extend to the animals, plants, waterways and all the beings of creation. The destruction of the natural environment in the name of development will sever our connection to the project area and permanently alter the land.

The Crawford Nickel project will impact on a variety of cultural, environmental, social, health and economic indicators for our community. This Crawford Project is being developed on a greenfield site, adjacent to conserved lands, and overlays over wetlands that host a variety of habitat for culturally important flora and fauna species. The magnitude of a project of this scale will cause irreversible alteration to our territory and our ability to continue cultural pursuits, it forecloses future land use opportunities to our community for an extended period of time and therefore affects our people seven generations and beyond into the future. Our membership has expressed concerns about the cumulative effects of development on our traditional territories and view it as critical for the CNC and therefore Crawford Nickel project to use utmost caution and risk management planning efforts in the ways in which they plan to operate.

We have provided additional comments to support Canada Nickels Chapter 27 Assessment of Potential Effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's and

Mattagami First Nation's Interests in the Impact Statement report submitted to IAAC. We have completed socio-economic and traditional land use studies in addition to submitting written comments via Mattagami First Nation's Committee comments and perspectives during the course of the Impact Assessment thus far, we request that IAAC carefully review and synthesize these documents for a comprehensive overview of the total breadth of our concerns which are detailed and specific.

Analytical assessment techniques utilized by Stantec to conduct the effects characterization we're presented to Mattagami First Nation with very little context or explanation. Mattagami First Nation did not meaningfully participate in effects characterization weighing or have meaningful opportunity to co-create study elements or subsequent evaluation of rights impacts and cumulative effects, which has been made clear to both CNC and Stantec in subsequent meetings leading up to the submission of the Impact Statement and beyond. However, CNC has committed to continually work towards achieving inclusive and equitable consultation results and we look forward to continued collaboration as the Impact Assessment progresses.

We underscore the critical importance of our relationship to the land and the maintenance of our cultural practices in the midst of development processes. We call on Federal and Provincial representatives to apply its commitments to reconciliation and making good relations to First Nations peoples, and to ensure that Indigenous rights and perspectives are weighed equitable in project planning and impact mitigation strategies, including via adaptive management programs and ongoing monitoring programs on a variety of key factors as outline in our comment submissions.

In good faith,

<Original signed by>

Julie McKay, Lands and Resources Director
Mattagami First Nation

cc: Chief Jennifer Constant of Mattagami First Nation