



March 21, 2023

**Re: Northern Road Link Initial Project Description Plain Language Summary**

To whom this may concern;

This letter includes the comments for submission to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada AZA on the Northern Road Link Project Summary.

Impacts on *Mother Earth* will be huge with the Northern Roads Projects. The access this development will create will be like never seen in this unmarked area. There are always positive and negative issues to consider with a project of this magnitude for the people, communities, natural environment, and existing wildlife. The initial feedback is an amalgamation obtained from the historical data from the community combining the expertise and knowledge of our land users in the project area. Our community's contributions are beyond academia and are part of our history and cultural practices.

**Impacts on the Natural Environment & Wildlife; land, fish, all four-legged animals, all two-legged animals, soil, water, medicinal plants, wild berries, fauna, and floral**

- Contamination; Toxins and spills (Vehicles and machinery)
- Many water crossings and culverts will be installed water protection is a must.
- Buffer zones for anything sensitive, including water and its tributaries
- All year-round access will be like never seen before, increasing recreational fishing and hunting from transients.
- Traditionally used areas will be opened up and allowed public use. This change *will impact the large and intact diverse wilderness* in this area.
- Garbage and debris from transient people and workers; permanent trash bins and regular monitoring of the land
- Biodiversity and wildlife will move out of certain areas, and the animals will have behavioral changes due to noise, and activity will increase the impact.
- Noise disturbances/nesting areas/are there any eagle nests in the project area?
- Destruction, degradation, or loss of habitats
- Lake Sturgeon habitat protection and preservation
- Wolverine habitat protection and preservation
- More opportunities for other industries to utilize new access, for example, mining and forestry
- Loss of certain berries, plants, and trees
- Hunter and gathers; all land users essentially will be impacted by the change in the landscape and the freshly opened-up areas

**Cultural Heritage and Artifacts;**

- The project area falls in our historical footprint identified in our historical data (Ogoki and Albany)

- Artifacts – what is the protocol for finding a piece of history? Including ones buried along routes.
- Huge impact; will be the loss of cultural sites that have protection by a diverse ecosystem presently


**Moving forward with the project;**

- We would like to see continued engagement, information sharing, and open houses with all communities and the agency; to further comprehend all phases of the project, all socio-economics and environmental pieces, and the value it will bring to have all-year-round access.
- Continued studies and project evolutions as more commenting and other ways of seeing project perspectives come in
- Continued funding to support community participation
- Continuing evaluating the land and its features thoroughly for any traces of artifacts, graves, and sacred items or spots (not every community has the same values and practices)
- The virtual live streams were a helpful tool; the continuum of these will be beneficial to AZA

Except these as our initial comments based on the information, the project has presented to date, a development like this will have a notable consequence on this geographic area that is unscathed and pristine. Continued and significantly advanced consultation will be required to further and fully understand the extent of the impacts on AZA. Serious consequences will come with these decisions on the project activities that cannot be taken back once commenced. After contorting the landscape, it will be that way forever.

Please feel free to reach out for clarification or conversation on anything we have included.

Chi Miigwetch,



Kyla Morrisseau

Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek  
Consultation Coordinator

***“Indigenous Peoples own, occupy, or use a quarter of the world’s surface area, they safeguard 80 percent of the world’s remaining biodiversity. They hold vital ancestral knowledge and expertise on how to adapt, mitigate and reduce climate change and disaster risk. Much of the land occupied by Indigenous Peoples is under customary ownership, yet many governments recognize only a fraction of this land as formally or legally belonging to Indigenous Peoples. Even when Indigenous territories and lands are recognized, protection of boundaries or use and exploitation of natural resources are often inadequate.”***

(Quote from the World Bank).