

Fort Albany First Nation
Preliminary Comments on the Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Northern Road Link Project (June 21, 2023)
August 4, 2023

ID	Reference	Topic	Comment
Assessment Methodology			
FAFN 001	7.1 p. 33	Baseline methodology	Baseline data taken from the MFCAR and WSR assessments may be skewed from the actual baselines due to the impacts of COVID on studies. For example, did travel and social distancing restrictions impact the conduct of studies? Did environmental factors such as reduced flight traffic impact the results of studies? Did the significant negative impact on Indigenous engagement with the assessments affect the studies? Such factors must be considered and accounted for before data from these studies is used.
FAFN 002	7.2 p. 38	Sources of baseline information	Any data sharing between projects must comply with conditions on information-sharing and use set by First Nations, and with any relevant conditions of OCAP. Data from or about Indigenous people should not be shared between projects without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Indigenous group regarding the specific data and the specific purpose(s) for which it is shared.
FAFN 003	7.6 p. 46	Mitigation and enhancement measures	When proponents are permitted to use less-effective mitigation measures for economic reasons, they bear the gains while the costs are offloaded onto the environment. Proponents should be required to identify technically feasible mitigation measures that were deemed not to be “economically feasible”, and explain the likely costs and why they were not considered economically feasible.
FAFN 004	7.6 p. 48	Mitigation and enhancement measures	FAFN and others have been critical of the federal and provincial recovery strategy for Boreal Caribou. We are concerned that measures that simply “align with” this strategy will be inadequate for understanding, preventing, and mitigating unacceptable impacts on Boreal Caribou.
FAFN 005	7.7 p. 49	Cumulative effects	FAFN supports and adopts the comments regarding cumulative effect and induced development made in the letter from Chief Sylvia Koostachin-Metatawabin of Attawapiskat First Nation dated July

		assessment	20, 2023, and notes that hydro development on the Albany River is also being considered.
FAFN 006	7.7 pp. 50-51	Sources of cumulative effects	We agree with the list of sources of cumulative effects as a minimum acceptable list (which must be added to), but it seems to signal that infrastructure and development-related sources are most important. It is also important that social or political sources of cumulative effects are considered (eg. residential schools, day schools, the Indian Act, the attempted containment of First Nations people on-reserve, etc.), particularly in relation to Indigenous rights, socio-economic factors, and use of land.
FAFN 007	7.8 p. 52	Extent to which effects are significant	FAFN supports and adopts the comments regarding this section made in the letter from Chief Koostachin-Metatawabin of Attawapiskat First Nation dated July 20, 2023.
Riparian and Wetland Environments			
FAFN 008	8.5.1 p. 63	Study areas	The local study area must consider the ecological connectivity of wetlands (e.g., as habitat for species that move between wetlands and other habitats to fulfill life cycle needs), in addition to watershed area and hydrological connectivity.
FAFN 009	8.5.1 p. 63	Indigenous engagement and knowledge	FAFN must be provided with the opportunity to provide their knowledge and input on what determines wetland importance, health and integrity. Indigenous knowledge, if provided, must be considered in equal weight to western science ways of determining wetland importance.
FAFN 010	8.5.1 p. 63	Contaminants of concern	In addition to the attributes noted, wetland impacts must be considered in the context of carbon and nutrient content, methylmercury and other contaminant levels, the likelihood of contaminant release, and hydrological connectivity.
FAFN 011	8.5.1 p. 64	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	Indigenous communities must be provided with the opportunity to identify species of significance. Collection of baseline information on wetland functions should include surveys to assess for the presence of terrestrial and wetland species of significance, if provided.
FAFN	8.5.1	Limitations	The wetland functions assessment should include a section on study limitations (e.g., timing, access,

012	p. 63	and uncertainty	etc.). This should note how these limitations might have impacted the results and where there may be information gaps that remain on wetland functions.
FAFN 013	8.5.2 p. 65	Contaminants of concern	<p>The Impact Statement must describe not only historical land use but also the geology and earth history of the region.</p> <p>The term "soil fertility" is potentially inappropriate for use in this region, where there are predominantly organic soils that are nutrient poor. Using the loss of soil fertility as an impact metric in this region could understate the impacts of activities in these nutrient poor organic soils (i.e., peatlands).</p> <p>In addition to the potential for contamination as a result of the project and knowledge of existing contamination, there must be mention of naturally occurring deleterious substances (e.g., methylmercury) and the potential for their release.</p> <p>In addition to soil contamination, impacts of contaminated air, water, flora and fauna on the surrounding environment and Indigenous communities must also be also considered.</p>
FAFN 014	8.5.2 p. 65	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	Indigenous communities must be provided with an opportunity to identify key indicators on project effects, and the sensitivity of wetland, riparian, and terrestrial environments to disturbance.
FAFN 015	8.5.2 p. 65	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	Buffers and setbacks are a separate requirement that must be developed with Indigenous communities. Typical buffers/setbacks from provincial/federal regulations are unlikely to be sufficient due to the high level of hydrologic connectivity through the deep peatlands that make up the study area.
FAFN 016	8.5.2 p. 65	Wetland function	Road development can significantly alter wetland function, including the potential negative outcome of hydrologic isolation and peatland drying. This can lead to wetland degradation and greenhouse gas release.

FAFN 017	8.5.2 p. 65	Climate change	In addition to the potential for the project to alter permafrost conditions, this discussion must include consideration of how climate change is/is expected to alter permafrost conditions, and how the project may exacerbate these expected changes. This should be extrapolated to how the cumulative effects of the project and climate change on permafrost are likely to result in the release of deleterious substances (e.g., methylmercury and greenhouse gasses).
FAFN 018	8.5.2 p. 65	Contaminants of concern	As echoed in other comments, the expected release of naturally occurring deleterious substances/contaminants from peat must be analyzed and described.
FAFN 019	8.5.2 p. 66	Wetland compensation	<p>Wetland offsets will not necessarily cause positive change without the careful consideration of many aspects of wetland function (e.g., nutrient cycling, hydrologic function, ecological functions), along with rigorous monitoring and adaptive management to ensure these functions. It is not always possible to restore all wetland functions.</p> <p>Therefore, using “offsets that result in new or enhanced wetlands” as an example of positive changes could result in the misinterpretation of the true outcome of wetland offsets in light of a full suite of wetland functions, instead focusing on an area-based metric that does not reflect functionality. This example should either be removed, or modified to read “e.g., from offsets that result in new or enhanced wetlands from a functional perspective.”</p> <p>Additionally, if offsets are considered, their design, implementation, and adaptive management must be completed in collaboration with interested Indigenous nations.</p>
FAFN 020	8.5.3 p. 64	Mitigation and enhancement measures	<p>If wetland compensation is considered, Indigenous nations must be involved in developing guidelines and adaptive management protocols. Compensation must be considered as a last case scenario only, following extensive analysis and consultation on other options (e.g., avoidance and minimization of impacts).</p> <p>Timescale must also be discussed when providing evidence that functions can be replaced by proposed offset activities. Wetland function may be able to be replaced, but the timescale to reach functionality may be inappropriate.</p>

FAFN 021	8.5.3 p. 66	Mitigation and enhancement measures	Please provide a reference for the mitigation hierarchy in the text, or describe the mitigation hierarchy that is intended for use. Avoidance must be the first step, and consideration of further steps must occur in sequence. Movement through the mitigation hierarchy must only occur after a fulsome analysis and description of options that could facilitate each step, starting with avoidance.
FAFN 022	8.5.3 p. 66	Mitigation and enhancement measures	Mitigation measures must consider methods for the prevention, monitoring, management, and control of contaminants released from organic soils during all project phases. Mitigation measures must also consider greenhouse gas release from organic soils and the support of greenhouse gas sequestration.
FAFN 023	8.5.3 p. 66	Wetland compensation	The minimum ratio for wetland compensation must be determined in consultation with Indigenous nations. The area-based ratio of 2:1 may not be sufficient to replace wetland functions in a reasonable time scale. Therefore, both function and area-based metrics (i.e., compensation ratios) for compensation must be established. Note that minimum standards must be exceeded whenever possible. Further, it is unclear to us where appropriate land for effective wetland compensation at a minimum acceptable ratio and in accordance with best practices could be found.
Vegetation			
FAFN 024	8.6.3 p. 69	Reclamation	The draft TISG explains some reclamation measures (seed mixes, fertilizers, planting plans, etc.) but the area proposed for development is in a highly sensitive peatland. In this ecosystem, conventional reclamation techniques do not work, and extensive research needs to be conducted to attempt to reclaim any part of a peatland. Additionally, a long-term monitoring and adaptive management plan needs to accompany the reclamation since this process can take decades.
FAFN 025	8.6.3 p. 69	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	Section 8.6.3 states that the proponent needs to “describe any considered vegetation standards and controls alternative including: the criteria and circumstances for applying chemical, biological or mechanical control methods”. Chemical methods must not be chosen without the consent of Indigenous nations. If chemical methods are chosen, the proponent must identify how they will study the impacts of the chemicals, waters, associated species, and Indigenous communities.
Effects to groundwater and surface water			

FAFN 026	8.7.2 p. 72	Snow	The assessment design should account for snow as a source of water for Indigenous people out on the land during the winter season, if there is a possibility of snow being contaminated or otherwise impacted as a water source.
Fish and Fish Habitat			
FAFN 027	8.8 pp. 70-79	Sedimentation	The draft TISG does not require assessment of the effects of sedimentation on the surrounding water bodies and fish. Please revise the TISG to include a requirement to assess effects of sedimentation on fish.
FAFN 028	8.8 p. 78	Contaminants of concern	Methylmercury (MeHg) is a highly toxic form of mercury, and disturbance of peatland soils promotes the release of MeHg. There is not enough rigorous examination of this topic in the TISG, especially considering its harmful potential to fish (bioaccumulation) and predators of fish. The draft TISG requires the proponent to 'describe potential for bioaccumulation in fishes' but does not indicate that any field studies need to take place. This aspect must be monitored continuously, and funding must be provided for Indigenous participation in monitoring programs, given the severity of potential impacts on human health.
FAFN 029	8.8 pp. 75-79	Baseline conditions	The majority of the TISG in section 8.8 are targeted towards desktop reviews. There needs to be more clear instruction on field methods, data collection requirements, and how often areas need to be sampled. This will be key for comparative studies (before and after the potential project development).
FAFN 030	8.8 pp. 75-79	Contaminants of concern	Section 8.8 does not address how the release of methylmercury could impact the people of Fort Albany First Nation and their ability to meaningfully exercise their harvesting rights. If methylmercury accumulates in the tissues of fish, members of Fort Albany First Nation could either be poisoned or unable to harvest fish for eating. If the project proceeds, the proponent must regularly sample fish, testing for mercuries. If the fish are found to have mercury bioaccumulation, there should be clear plans for compensation and restoration of the area, in addition to mitigation measures that ensure safe food for members of Fort Albany First Nation. There is also existing precedent (e.g., the Victor Mine) that release of mercury/methylmercury must

			be considered in light of the most stringent standards, which may exceed the Canadian standards.
FAFN 031	8.8.1 p. 76	Baseline conditions	There is only one mention of aquatic invertebrates as an example of habitat function. Invertebrates are not only a key food source for many fish species, but they can be used as an indicator species for the health of the water system.
FAFN 032	8.8.2 p. 78	Harvesting pressure	This section does not address how the new road may increase access to recreational fishing. The proposed road may provide new access to anglers, increasing pressures on fish. It may also allow users of off highway vehicles to access new areas, which can greatly impact sensitive peatlands and the surrounding water bodies. These concerns need to be addressed as potential effects to fish and fish habitat, and controls should be in places to limit these impacts.
FAFN 033	8.8.2 p. 78	Direct effects	The TISG should clarify what is considered a “direct” (versus “indirect”) effect of contamination downstream on fish and bioaccumulation of contaminants, and should require description of potential for both direct and indirect effects.
Terrestrial Wildlife and their Habitat			
FAFN 034	8.10.1 p. 91	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	The draft TISG states that the proponent must “ <i>identify wildlife species ... of Indigenous importance</i> ” and include information about each species. The TISG should also require the proponent to include available information on the cultural importance and traditional uses of each species.
Species at Risk			
FAFN 035	8.11.1 pp. 94-101	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	The draft TISG requires consideration of Indigenous knowledge for caribou but not for other species at risk. Please revise the TISG to require consideration of Indigenous knowledge for all species at risk.
FAFN 036	8.11.2 p. 101	Caribou habitat	Given the expert analysis by Prof. Phil McLoughlin which has been provided to Canada by Attawapiskat First Nation in a report titled “Proposed Exploration Activity by Noront Resources Ltd. on the Traditional Lands of Attawapiskat First Nation: Critical Issues Regarding Caribou Conservation”

			(2022), FAFN objects to the application of the federal 35% habitat disturbance threshold. FAFN requests that this report be duly considered in the assessment, and has enclosed it with these comments.
FAFN 037	8.12.1 p. 109	Climate change	The Impact Statement must include an analysis of naturally occurring greenhouse gasses (e.g., carbon and methane) in organic soils, the expected greenhouse gas release as a result of organic soil disruption, and plans to mitigate this release.
FAFN 038	General	Amphibians	The draft TISG does not include information on impacts to amphibians. Amphibians play a key role in ecosystem function. Wetlands provide essential habitat to many species, especially Species at Risk. Please revise the TISG to require a desktop review on amphibians and their habitat needs in the study area. If impacts on amphibians are expected, field surveys should be conducted, and the need for an amphibian salvage plan must be considered.
FAFN 039	General	Eastern Migratory Caribou	The Eastern Migratory Caribou is overdue to be listed on Schedule 1 of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> , and Fort Albany First Nation and Attawapiskat First Nation have both urged that this be done. The TISG should be revised to specifically require that the Eastern Migratory Caribou be treated as a species at risk for the purposes of this assessment, if it is not already captured as such in the TISG.
Indigenous Peoples - General			
FAFN 040	10 pp. 116, 118, 130, 135, 141	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	The requirement to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into the impact assessment should reflect the commitment set out in the IEPP, whereby “Indigenous Knowledge needs to be considered on equitable footing with western scientific information in decision-making processes related to the Project” (IEPP p.3). Please revise Section 10 of the TISG to require the meaningful incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge in the impact assessment.
FAFN 041	10 pp. 115-144	Cumulative Effects	The draft TISG requires description of how historical and cumulative effects have already impacted physical and cultural heritage and current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes and Indigenous rights. This requirement must be extended to the assessment of impacts on health, social

			<p>and economic conditions. The historical and cumulative effects context is essential to the assessment of impacts on Indigenous peoples and must consider the full breadth of past and current stressors on Indigenous rights and interests as well as current Indigenous initiatives to reclaim, restore and reconnect with their culture, territories, laws, communities, health and Indigenous rights.</p> <p>Please revise the TISG to include an explicit requirement to describe and consider how historical and current cumulative effects to environmental and socio-cultural conditions, including changes to those conditions, have already impacted Indigenous peoples': physical and cultural heritage, and structures, sites or things of significance; current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes; health social and economic conditions; and Indigenous rights.</p>
FAFN 042	10 p. 118	Cumulative Effects	<p>The TISG does not require an assessment of the interaction of project impacts with the impacts of reasonably foreseeable future impacts, including induced development in the Ring of Fire resulting from the Project. However, assessment of indirect impacts associated with a project, including induced development, is essential component of cumulative impact assessment (Karlson, Mörtberg and Balfors (2014).</p> <p>Please revise the TISG to require assessment the cumulative effects from reasonably foreseeable future projects and activities, including induced development (e.g. mineral exploration and development in the Ring of Fire, forestry, non-Indigenous resource harvesting, tourism) that may result from the Project.</p> <p>Reference: Karlson, Mörtberg and Balfors (2014). Road ecology in environmental impact assessment. Environmental Impact Assessment Review (48). Pages 10-19. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0195925514000365#t0010</p>
FAFN 043	10.3.1.2.2 p. 130	Determinants of Health	<p>Effects on Indigenous spirituality and ceremonial practices should be considered health effects.</p> <p>Our ability to access the land and travel throughout our territory is also important. Environmental effects such as reduced water levels or climate change that reduce the distance we can travel, and the</p>

			time when we can travel, can create serious health and safety risks for us.
FAFN 044	10.3.2.2.2 p. 134	Services and infrastructure	Services and infrastructure are not only about human-built or human-delivered things. The rivers provide important infrastructure for us (eg. as transportation routes) and the land, water, and animals provide us with important “services” (the land is our traditional “grocery store”). Effects on these things (eg. decline in water levels in the rivers) should be recognized as effects on services and infrastructure where appropriate, and Indigenous Knowledge is necessary to understand where this is appropriate.
FAFN 045	10 p. 137	Indigenous rights	The requirement to identify and describe Treaty rights should acknowledge the context within which treaties were made, document Indigenous views regarding the treaties, and document the extent to which Indigenous communities agree or disagree with the English versions of the treaties and their interpretation and implementation, as compared with Indigenous-language versions. Given the context for this Project, special attention should be given to Treaty 9.
Indigenous Peoples - Physical and cultural heritage, and structures, sites or things of significance			
FAFN 046	10.1.1 p. 118	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	<p>The requirement to describe the natural and cultural heritage, and provide maps for buildings, sites and things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance in the study area does not recognize or protect the sensitive nature of these sites to Indigenous groups.</p> <p>Please revise the TISG to require consultation with Indigenous groups regarding information about sites and things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance and require any description and use of such information is governed under the OCAP principles (ownership, control, access and possession).</p>
FAFN 047	10.1.2 p. 119	Impacts on intangible cultural heritage	The requirement to assess the positive and adverse effects to physical and cultural heritage, and structures, sites or things of historical archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance should be expanded to include positive and adverse effects to intangible cultural heritage such as knowledge transmission, sense of place, and identity. This is required to reflect the intrinsic connection between land, environment, and culture.

			Please revise the TISG to require the assessment of the positive and adverse effects to physical and cultural heritage, including intangible cultural heritage, and structures, sites or things of archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance.
Indigenous Peoples - Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes			
FAFN 048	10.2.1 p. 120	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	<p>Information regarding the location of traditional uses, including hunting, trapping, and fishing camps, cabins, and gathering or teaching grounds should only be included if permission is granted by the relevant Nation, per OCAP standards.</p> <p>Please revise the TISG to require the description of the location of traditional uses, including hunting, trapping, and fishing camps, cabins, and gathering or teaching grounds only if permission to do so is granted by the relevant Nation.</p>
FAFN 049	10.2.2 p.121	Effects to current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes	<p>The requirement to describe and assess potential intergenerational impacts over the lifetime of the Project does not consider impacts that may arise and persist following the life of the project. Due to the nature of the Northern Link Road and the likelihood of the road to open up additional avenues and increase the presence of mineral exploration and development in the Ring of Fire, as well as the lack of plan for decommissioning of the road, this timeline should be extended to include potential intergenerational impacts into the foreseeable future, beyond the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>Please revise the TISG to require the description and assessment of potential intergenerational impacts into the foreseeable future.</p>
Indigenous Peoples - Health, social and economic conditions			
FAFN 050	10.3 p. 122	Cumulative impacts	<p>The requirement to describe the inter-generational impacts of the Project on community members, including by future economic opportunities associated with the Project, should include the identification of impacts arising from induced development as a result of the Project.</p> <p>Please revise the requirement regarding description of inter-generational impacts to include impacts arising from induced development likely to result from the project.</p>

FAFN 051	10.3 p. 122	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	<p>The requirement to consider federal guidance In the assessment of health, social and economic conditions also refer to any relevant existing guidance published by impacted Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Please revise this requirement to require reference to, and consideration of, relevant available Indigenous plans, policies and guidelines pertaining to the health, social and economic conditions of impacted Nations.</p>
FAFN 052	10.3 p. 123	Baseline conditions	<p>The requirement to describe the level of food security should be extended to a requirement to describe the level of water security. Fort Albany First Nation is highly dependent on access to clean, healthy waters for consumption, transportation and support of a healthy environment.</p>
FAFN 053	10.3.1 p.123	Baseline conditions	<p>The requirement to identify the environmental and social area of influence of the Project should include consideration of the specific histories, patterns of use, and cultural practices of the impacted Nations, including downstream uses.</p> <p>Please revise this requirement to ensure that the environmental and social area of influence of the Project takes into account the specific histories, patterns of use, and cultural practices of the impacted Nation(s), including downstream uses.</p>
FAFN 054	10.3.1 p.124	Baseline conditions	<p>The requirement to describe the current health effects (physical, social, and mental) of geographic isolation and lack of economic development does not reflect a strengths-based approach to Indigenous health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Please revise this requirement to reflect a strengths-based approach to Indigenous health and wellbeing.</p>
FAFN 055	10.3.1 p. 125	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	<p>The requirement to adhere to relevant ethical and cultural protocols during the collection, analysis and reporting of data must should also require collaboration be with Indigenous communities in accordance with existing protocols and policies for information and data sharing and gathering held by the Nation(s).</p>

			<p>Please revised the requirement to ensure that the methodologies for the collection, analysis and reporting of data is developed in conjunction with the relevant Indigenous Nation(s) and in accordance with the Nation(s') existing guidance and policies, where applicable.</p>
FAFN 056	10.3.1.2 p. 126	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	<p>The TISG states that indicators selected for the effects assessment must be developed through engagement with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Please revise this requirement to reference the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge in the selection of indicators for the impact assessment.</p>
FAFN 057	10.3.1.2.1 p.129	Determinants of health	<p>The requirement to identify anticipated effects of the Project on the quality and quantity of groundwater or surface water used for domestic uses should be expanded to include effects of the Project on the quality and quantity of groundwater or surface water used for both domestic and recreational uses, and exposure to contaminated water sources through skin contact (e.g., bathing, swimming, washing of clothes) can have a direct impact on health.</p> <p>Please revise this requirement to include the identification of effects of the Project on the quality and quantity of groundwater or surface water used for domestic and recreational uses based on the most stringent guideline values.</p>
FAFN 058	10.3.1.2.2 p. 130	Determinants of health	<p>The requirement to describe effects on the safety of women and girls from project activities, including worker accommodation, and as a result of new roads in remote areas should be expanded to include effects on the safety of women, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals, and should include factors such as worker accommodation and the increased presence of non-Indigenous populations in the area as a result of the road construction and likely increase in mineral exploration and development activities in the Ring of Fire area post-Project construction.</p> <p>Please revise the requirement to include the description of effects on the safety of women, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals from project activities, including worker accommodation, and the increased presence of non-Indigenous populations in the area as a result of the road construction and likely increase in mineral exploration and development activities in the Ring of Fire area post-Project</p>

			construction.
FAFN 059	10.3.1.2.2 p. 131	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	<p>In the description and quantification of specific thresholds, as well as the documentation of different thresholds used for vulnerable populations, the way in which Indigenous Knowledge has been meaningfully included in the identification of thresholds should be clearly described.</p> <p>Please include a requirement to describe how Indigenous Knowledge has been meaningfully included in the identification, description, and quantification of specific thresholds, and in the decision to consider different thresholds for vulnerable populations.</p>
FAFN 060	10.3.3.1 p. 135	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	<p>The requirement to describe the local and regional economic conditions and trends with respect to the Indigenous communities existing forest management plans should be expanded to include any relevant economic policies and plans developed by the Indigenous community (e.g., land use plans, community development plans, employment policies).</p> <p>Please include a requirement to consider available economic policies and plans (e.g., land use plants, forest management plans, community development plans) held by the Indigenous community in the determination of local and regional economic conditions and trends.</p>
FAFN 061	10.3.3.2.2 p. 136	Cumulative impacts	<p>The TISG requires that the Impact Statement describe whether the Project will result in, or facilitate the construction of other infrastructure.</p> <p>Please revise the requirement to describe how the Project, operating in tandem with the Community Access Road and Webequie Supply Road, will facilitate the construction of infrastructure associated with the exploration and development of mineral extraction within the Ring of Fire area.</p>
Indigenous Peoples - Rights of Indigenous peoples			
FAFN 062	10.4.1 p. 138	Baseline conditions	<p>The requirement to identify and describe the quality and quantity of resources required to support the exercise of Indigenous rights does not take into account relevant thresholds necessary for the meaningful exercise of rights, as protected under Section 35 of the Constitution.</p>

			Please revise the requirement to identify and describe the quality and quantity of resources necessary to support the meaningful exercise of rights, taking into account community-developed thresholds of change.
FAFN 063	10.4.1 p. 138	Indigenous knowledge and engagement	<p>The requirement to include maps and data sets relating to places of cultural importance and cultural and spiritual significance should only apply if permission is granted by the relevant Indigenous community, due to the sacred nature of these places.</p> <p>Please include a requirement for the description or use of any maps or data sets relating to places of cultural importance and cultural and spiritual significance to be governed under the OCAP principles (ownership, control, access and possession).</p>
Indigenous Peoples - Mitigation and enhancement measures			
FAFN 064	10.5 p. 142	Mitigation and enhancement measures	<p>The suggestion to provide a description of the types of jobs available, the timeframe for the employment or opportunity and how long such opportunities will be available should be phrased as a requirement and be expanded to include training opportunities that will be provided in order to facilitate and develop the skills and education necessary to participate in available jobs and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Please revise the statement to include the description of the types of training and educational programs provided in order to prepare Indigenous workers for employment opportunities related to the Project construction, particularly in positions of authority that are well-compensated.</p>

FAFN 065	16 p. 156	Language	We require that a plain language summary of the Impact Statement be provided in Cree (n-dialect).
Other general comments			
FAFN 066	<p>In a number of places in the TISG, the Proponents are directed to draw on studies and information from the MFCAR and WSR assessments. As noted above, FAFN is very concerned about the reliability and completeness of these assessments to date, given the significant impacts that the COVID pandemic had on Indigenous engagement and potentially also on the reliability of certain studies. There is a risk that the problems with those processes become duplicated and compounded if they are relied upon in this process, particularly because the cumulative effects of these projects (which are in reality one giant road project) are so closely linked. We are also concerned that the Proponents may be unable to assess and manage this risk in an unbiased way as required by the Agency (p. 9), as they are also the proponents for the MFCAR and WSR projects.</p>		
FAFN 067	<p>FAFN is bound by Creator’s Law, Mother Nature/Environmental Law, and our own Cree Law. We will consider these laws as they relate to the Project and expect that breaches of these laws will be acknowledged as impacts on our Indigenous rights.</p> <p>In line with these laws, the TISG must require that studies are conducted in a manner that minimizes unnecessary stress, harm, and disruption to animals, land, and water, even if such study methods are more costly or time-consuming.</p>		