

Enclosure: Provincial Authority Advice Record

Response Due by September 18, 2023

Great Bear Gold Project
Agency File: 85832

All comments should be submitted via the **Submit a Comment** feature available on the Project's Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page¹. Letters and forms can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency at Greatbear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Ministry/Agency	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)
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1. Expertise

Identify and describe the area of expertise within your ministry that is relevant to an assessment of the Project.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) will review any technical cultural heritage studies related to this Project to ensure compliance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* and more generally support fulfilment of due diligence related to heritage.

MCM has an interest in undertakings such as this under its mandate to develop policies and programs for the conservation of Ontario's cultural heritage.

As a government review agency, MCM reviews various applications and associated technical studies, including those under an environmental assessment process to ensure compliance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* and fulfillment of due diligence related to cultural heritage more generally.

To meet its obligations related to the conservation of cultural heritage resources, including their identification, protection and wise management, the proponent retains qualified persons to prepare technical cultural heritage studies (e.g., archaeological assessments, cultural heritage evaluations, heritage impact assessments). It is these studies that MCM reviews.

Under its mandate to conserve Ontario's cultural heritage, MCM applies the following processes and approvals to address potential adverse effects on cultural heritage resources, including archaeological resources, built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.

Ontario Heritage Act, Part VI

Under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA), MCM regulates archaeology and licenses archaeologists. The ministry reviews archaeological reports as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the OHA. This review is to ensure that; the archaeologist has met the terms and conditions of their license, archaeological sites have been identified and documented according to the standards set by MCM, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation of archaeological resources.

Once they have reviewed an archaeological report, MCM staff provide the archaeologist with a letter. If the report complies with the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM, 2011), the letter informs the archaeologist that the report has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. The letter is copied to the proponent and the approval authority (e.g., Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada). Approval authorities often rely on the letter to address legislative requirements, and more broadly, to address concerns for due diligence.

Ontario Heritage Act, Part III.1

All Ontario government ministries and public bodies that are prescribed under Ontario Regulation 157/10 must comply with the [Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties](#). They apply to property that is owned or controlled by the Crown in right of Ontario or by a prescribed public body.

2. Key issues and solutions

Respond to the following **Table 1: Key Issues to inform decision-making** on the last page.

What are the key issues likely to be relevant to the public interest decision, based on the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your ministry or agency, and which should be addressed in an impact assessment of the Project, should the Agency determine that one is required?

For each key issue:

- Describe the effect or the nature of the issue, including any relevant context;
- Provide the rationale and/or evidence for why it is a key issue;
- Identify briefly solutions to the issue, including any information or studies that should be required in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, potential mitigation measures, and/or regulatory requirements relevant to the issue;
- Identify any clarifications or commitments the Proponent could make in its Detailed Project Description and Response to the Summary of Issues that would build confidence that issues can be addressed and managed without further impact assessment;
- Provide a concise, plain-language summary of the issue for inclusion in the Summary of Issues

The information provided will be used by the Agency to determine if and an impact assessment is required and where appropriate to develop project-specific draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines that focus on the key issues likely to be relevant to the public interest decision.

In addition to our comments in Table 1, MCM has included some suggested revisions to the draft Initial Project Description in a separate table which is enclosed with this form.

3. Provincial policies, operational guidance, and permits and approvals

Within the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your ministry, list, along with a brief description, specific operational policies or guidance documents that could help address issues and manage effects relevant to the project context.

See answer to Question 1. MCM will review all technical cultural heritage studies for this project.

4. (a) List and provide a short description of provincial permits or regulatory approvals that might be applicable to the Project.

(b) For each provincial permit or regulatory approval that would be required for the Project, please provide the following information:

- i. Explain any associated framework to address effects on valued components within your mandate.**
- ii. Describe any Indigenous consultation activities that would occur, potential timelines for Indigenous participation, and how potential impacts to Indigenous communities are addressed by your ministry.**
- iii. Describe any public participation opportunities that would occur, and potential timelines for public participation.**

See answer to Question 1. MCM will review all technical cultural heritage studies for this project.

MCM does not undertake Indigenous or public consultation for projects undertaken by external parties and does not provide participant funding.

5. Is there any additional information related to the geographic context of the Project (e.g. potential effects to natural heritage features, Indigenous protected and conserved areas, provincial species at risk, provincial policy statements on planning or zoning in the area) for which your ministry has information or authority?

MCM recommends that a commitment be included that any technical cultural heritage studies, including archaeological assessment(s) be shared with Indigenous communities and other interested parties, as appropriate.

- (a) The Agency understands that the Project is in an area that supports the boreal caribou population². Does your ministry or agency have information related to the potential effects on boreal caribou population, and any plans to mitigate those effects?

n/a

Joseph Harvey
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Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Date: September 18, 2023

The Project is located near the eastern boundary of the Sydney Range as defined by the Ontario Woodland Caribou Conservation Plan