

## Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)

**FAAR Response must be submitted by May 26, 2025**

York Factory First Nation Ten Shilling Aerodrome Project – York Factory First Nation

Registry File: 89488

Department/ Agency	Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)	
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1. a) Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the project to enable it to proceed?

**Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) does not anticipate exercising a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project.**

If yes, specify the Act of Parliament and that power, duty or function.

b) Please describe any Indigenous or public consultation that will be undertaken in relation to the exercise of that power, duty or function, including when it would take place.

c) Indicate if the power, duty or function will be required **to construct** the project. Please choose from Required, Potential, Likely, Unlikely, or Not Required as appropriate

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2. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge in its area of expertise that may be relevant to the conduct of an impact assessment of the Project?

**ISC has a mandate to support Indigenous people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) in their efforts to improve social well-being, health and economic prosperity; to develop healthier, more sustainable communities; and to participate more fully in Canada's political, social and economic development.**

**ISC also has information and knowledge of Indigenous matters on Federal lands including state of the environment and community infrastructure.**

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Specify the specialist or expert information or knowledge.

**Regional Operations at ISC has knowledge surrounding environmental matters and issues of First Nations reserves including contaminated sites and areas of potential environmental concern. There is also expertise surrounding infrastructure on reserve including housing, water and wastewater, solid waste management, etc. and on assessment of effects to the social and economic conditions of First Nations communities.**

ISC-FNIHB is in possession of specialist, expert information, and knowledge that is relevant to potential adverse effects within Federal jurisdiction caused by the Project. Specifically, ISC-FNIHB is mandated to ensure the availability of, or access to, health services for First Nations on-reserve and Inuit communities; to help First Nations and Inuit communities overcome health barriers and disease threats and achieve levels of health comparable to other Canadians living in similar locations; and to build strong partnerships with First Nations and Inuit to improve health services.

To support the assessment of health effects on First Nations people, ISC-FNIHB can provide specialized information and knowledge on:

- Primary Healthcare (i.e., health promotion and disease prevention, public health protection, primary care)
- Supplementary Health Benefits (i.e., mental health and wellness, dental, pharmacy, medical supplies and equipment, vision, visiting health care professional services)
- Health Infrastructure (i.e., health system capacity, health system transformation)

ISC-FNIHB may also hold knowledge and/or information, which would vary from First Nation community to community on:

- Community level demographics;
- Health status of First Nations on-reserve;
- The provision of health services (i.e., nurses on-reserve to provide primary healthcare services, dental care for children on-reserve, Communicable Disease Control program);
- Community health and wellness programs (i.e., community nutrition programming, Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, mobile community-led mental wellness teams, toll-free crisis lines, suicide prevention and life promotion activities, trauma-informed health and cultural supports programming);
- Environmental public health (i.e., such as drinking water quality, food safety, chemical contamination of traditional foods or the perception of contamination, diet).
- Environmental public health inspections on-reserve (i.e., housing, public facilities, care facilities, food facilities).

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3. Has your department or agency considered the project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

Specify.

**ISC has considered an interest in the Project related to impacts on Indigenous peoples and the rights of Indigenous peoples. ISC has not exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project or taken any course of action that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part.**

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4. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the Project? (for example: an enquiry about methodology, guidance, or data; introduction to the project). **Yes**

Provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

**The proponent sought advice from ISC on its requirements under the *Impact Assessment Act* and was re-directed to IAAC to discuss impact assessment requirements of the project.**

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5. Does your department or agency have additional information or knowledge on the project not specified above, including information on the geographic, environmental, economic or social context

of the project? (e.g. location of protected or sensitive areas, previous history between local communities and proponent or similar projects, local or regional social or economic concerns)?

Specify as appropriate.

**ISC may have information regarding community infrastructure such as health services, housing, water and wastewater, solid waste management etc. as well as any Municipal Type Service Agreements that support First Nations communities.**

**Depending on the type of information provided for the Project, ISC has an Indigenous Economic Impact Estimator Tool that may be applied to inform the assessment of potential effects to the economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples from the Project.**

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6. Based on the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, what are the key issues related to the project?

For each key issue:

- Describe the potential effect or the nature of the issue, including any relevant context e.g. how it falls under an area of federal jurisdiction as defined under the IAA;
- Provide the rationale and/or evidence for why it is a key issue;
- Provide advice on how to address 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;
- Provide a concise, plain-language summary of the issue for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

The information provided will be considered by IAAC and may be used to inform its decision on whether an impact assessment is required and, where appropriate, for next steps in the impact assessment process including to develop project-specific draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines.

Please use Table 1 to respond to this question.

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7. Where possible, identify any additional information the proponent could include in their response to the Summary of Issues, and, if IAAC requires it, in their Detailed Project Description, that would: **N/A**

- Give confidence that minor issues or effects could be addressed and managed by clear measures, existing guidelines, other regulatory processes or other existing tools;
- Inform the decision as to whether an impact assessment is required; or
- Aid in tailoring the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, if IAAC decides an impact assessment is required.
- Clarify if a federal permit, licence or authorization may be required.

These clarifications and additional information will be included as specific questions in the Summary of Issues provided to the proponent.

Please use Table 2 to respond to this question.

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**Ayonniyi Jonathan Dehinbo**

Name of Departmental / Agency  
Responder

**Senior Environmental Specialist**

Title of Responder

**May 26, 2025**

Date

**Table 1: Key Issues to inform the impact assessment process**

IAAC asks that federal authorities align expert advice with IAAC’s approach to tailoring by project, which focuses on key project issues, clearly focused on the prevention of adverse effects within federal jurisdiction. In identifying key issues, federal authorities should be mindful of the project’s context (size, scope, location), Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives, and public concerns. Key issues that may be relevant to the decision include:

- adverse effects within federal jurisdiction and direct or incidental adverse effects that may be to some extent significant, based on federal experts’ knowledge and experience with past projects;
- potential impacts on Indigenous Peoples and their rights, based on Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives or experience with past projects;
- effects on key species or habitats (e.g. at risk, important to Indigenous communities, commercial importance, provide important ecosystem function);
- issues or effects that may result from novel project activities, components or technology;
- effects with large uncertainties, including in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;
- adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct or incidental adverse effects where mitigation measures are limited;
- positive effects, including where project may support other governmental priorities, including reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples; and
- key concerns raised by Indigenous groups or local communities.

Effects that are anticipated to be minor or which can be managed using well understood mitigation, existing guidance, and/or other regulatory processes may have simplified information requirements or may be removed entirely. Measured advice from federal authorities on key issues and solutions —and on the scope and detail of any required information and studies — will enable IAAC to focus assessments on issues that are important to participants and to decision-makers.

Comment ID	Relevant section of the Initial Project Description	Valued Component or Factor to Consider	Description of Key Issue (Context and Rationale)	Advice	Plain language summary for inclusion in Summary of Issues
<p><i>Please identify comments by organization and comment number.</i></p> <p><i>e.g.: IAAC-01</i></p>	<p><i>If the comment is related to a specific section of the Initial Project Description, please include that reference.</i></p>	<p><i>Identify valued component(s) or factor to consider—within the mandate of your department or agency—to which the potential effect or issue applies.</i></p>	<p><i>Provide a brief description of the issue and rationale for being a key issue.</i></p> <p><i>Include, where relevant,:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>the pathway of effects;</i></li> <li>• <i>relevant context on why it is a key issue;</i></li> <li>• <i>key uncertainties that should be addressed in the impact assessment;</i></li> <li>• <i>Indigenous or public concerns or perspective;</i></li> <li>• <i>potential for differential effects among diverse subgroups;</i></li> <li>• <i>scientific evidence or Indigenous Knowledge, including from past project experience, which supports inclusion as a key issue.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Where applicable, briefly provide solutions on how to address the potential issue or effects including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Information or studies required to describe and characterize the potential effect; including any guidance for data collection and/or analysis or existing data sources to inform the assessment;</i></li> <li>• <i>Any means, including any powers, duties or functions, that your department or agency has that may mitigate, manage, or set conditions related to the issue or effect;</i></li> <li>• <i>Guidance or policies for mitigating effects or any standard and well-understood mitigation measures that would address the effect, including follow-up monitoring activities; and/or</i></li> <li>• <i>Commitments the proponent could make to respond to the issue.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Where available, please refer to existing text in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines template.</i></p>	<p><i>For issues to be included in the Summary of Issues, provide a concise, plain language synopsis of the key issue and any questions or directions for the proponent.</i></p>

*Please insert additional rows as necessary.*

Table 2. Clarifications or additional information the Proponent could include in the response to Summary of Issues

Comment ID	Relevant section of the Initial Project Description	Description of Issue, Concern or Uncertainty	Clarification or additional information	Plain language summary for inclusion in Summary of Issues
<p>Please identify comments by organization and comment number.</p> <p>e.g.: IAAC-01</p>	<p>If the comment is related to a specific section of the Initial Project Description, please provide a reference.</p> <p>You may also choose to copy the relevant text here.</p>	<p>Provide a description of the issue, concern or uncertainty the proponent could address in their response to Summary of Issues and, if IAAC requires it, in their Detailed Project Description that would give confidence that the issue will be addressed and managed, by clear measures, existing guidelines, regulatory processes or other existing tools, and thus be the subject of simplified information requests in the guidelines, or simply be removed. Include any uncertainty related to federal permits, licences or authorizations that may be required for the project</p>	<p>Provide recommended clarification or additional information to be included in their response to the Summary of Issues and, if IAAC requires it, in their Detailed Project Description to address the issue, concern or uncertainty, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifications to elements of the project description (e.g. components, activities, locations or alternatives);</li> <li>• Proposed project design changes that could avoid effects;</li> <li>• Evidence that could be presented to demonstrate there is no effect pathway of effect or that effects would be negligible;</li> <li>• Evidence that standard mitigations will address potential effects</li> <li>• Commitments the proponent could make to respond to the issue, including the implementation of federal operational policies or guidance documents.</li> <li>• Information needed to clarify whether a federal permit, licence or authorization may be required</li> </ul>	<p>For issues to be included in the Summary of Issues, provide a concise, plain language synopsis of the issue and of the question or direction for the proponent.</p>
<p>ISC-01-FNIHB</p>	<p>2.2.4 Landowner Engagement</p> <p>“YFFN’s members are all in support of the Project moving forward and are looking forward to better access to their traditional lands and the protection of it” (pg. 10).</p>	<p>It is unclear how the proponent obtained unanimous community support for the Project. The proponent should include additional information on any engagement sessions that have taken place to date, as well as describe how unanimous support for the Project was obtained. For example, support for the Project was determined through a vote at a community engagement session or via a Band Council Resolution signed by Chief and Council.</p>	<p>The proponent should clarify how York Factory First Nation members were engaged on the Project and how their support for the Project was obtained.</p>	<p>The proponent should clarify how the community was engaged on the Project and how support for the Project was obtained.</p>
<p>ISC-02-FNIHB</p>	<p>3.3.2. Existing Infrastructure</p> <p>“York Factory First Nation aerodrome will be located near their traditional camp located at Ten Shilling Creek which has been in operation since the 1970’s. The camp consists of various buildings including four sleeping cabins, a kitchen cabin and miscellaneous outbuildings. This camp will be utilized to house workers for the construction and operations of the aerodrome” (pg. 20).</p>	<p>It is unclear whether the existing infrastructure at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp will be sufficient to support the Project’s construction and operation workforce. The IPD does not state the estimated number of workers for the construction and operation phases of the Project. In addition, the IPD does not state the capacity or sanitary standards of the sleeping cabins and kitchen cabin at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp.</p> <p>Furthermore, the construction and operation schedule are unclear. The IPD does not state whether workers will be on a two-week fly-in/fly-out rotation or stationed at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp for an entire season. Lastly, it is unclear whether the workforce will be comprised of members from York Factory First Nation, neighbouring First Nations or individuals from outside the community.</p>	<p>The proponent should clarify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The estimated number of workers during the construction and operation phases of the Project;</li> <li>• The capacity of the sleeping cabins and kitchen cabin at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp;</li> <li>• How sanitary standards and the sanitary safety of the kitchen cabin will be ensured;</li> <li>• The shift schedule for the construction and operation phases of the Project; and</li> <li>• Where the workforce for the Project will come from.</li> </ul> <p>ISC-FNIHB recommends that the Environmental Public Health Officer for York Factory First Nation complete an inspection of the kitchen cabin at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp to ensure sanitary standards and safe food handling practices are being implemented.</p>	<p>The proponent should clarify the estimated construction and operation workforce, housing and kitchen capacity of the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp, sanitary standards for the sleeping and kitchen cabins, shift schedule for the construction and operation workforce, and where the workforce will be drawn from.</p> <p>The proponent should request an inspection by York Factory First Nation’s Environmental Public Health Officer of the kitchen cabin at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp.</p>

ISC-03-FNIHB	3.5 Anticipated Schedule	The Anticipated Schedule tables do not include a timeframe for the operation and decommissioning phases of the Project. The proponent should include an estimated timeframe for the operation phase of the Project (e.g., 50 years). In addition, it is insufficient for the proponent to state "not anticipated" for the decommissioning phase of the Project. Due to climate change or other factors, in decades to come, the Project's location may no longer be viable to support an aerodrome.	The proponent should include the anticipated timeframe for the operation and decommissioning phases of the Project in the Anticipated Schedule tables.  The proponent could complete a Climate Change and Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment to identify the potential impacts of climate change on the Project (i.e., site, infrastructure, construction materials), to identify potential design and adaptation measures, and to provide local health and emergency management officials and the community with information on the magnitude and pattern of current and future health risks associated with climate change and variability.	The proponent should include the anticipated timeframe for the operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.  The proponent could complete a Climate Change and Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment for the Project.
ISC-04-FNIHB	4.3.1 Health Context  "The closest health centre is in Shamattawa approximately 120kms SE and Gillam has a health centre and hospital approximately 160kms south of the Project" (pg. 48).	The proponent has provided information on some healthcare facilities; however, this section could be expanded. The proponent could also include information on the nursing stations and health centres located in York Factory First Nation, Shamattawa First Nation, War Lake First Nation, Fox Lake Cree Nation and Tataskweyak Cree Nation, as construction workers, operational staff and individuals travelling to the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp may come from these communities.	The proponent should include information on the nursing stations and health centres located in nearby First Nations communities as they may need to provide healthcare services to the workforce or those visiting the site.	The proponent should include information on the nursing stations and health centres located in nearby First Nations communities.
ISC-05-FNIHB	6.3 Impact to Indigenous Peoples	It is unclear whether York Factory First Nation collects water from the Hayes River or Ten Shilling Creek for use at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp. The proponent should include information on drinking water sources for the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp; especially if workers during the construction and operation phases of the Project are collecting water from these locations for consumption and hygiene purposes.  The Project is located approximately 200m from Hayes River and Ten Shilling Creek. To ensure the health and safety of workers, as well as community members who use the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp, the proponent must ensure proper storage of fuel and chemicals on-site so that these water bodies do not become contaminated.	The proponent should include information on drinking water sources near the Project and Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp. The proponent must ensure there is a safe setback distance and proper storage and handling of hazardous materials and waste from waterbodies to avoid potential contamination from construction and operation activities.	The proponent should include information on drinking water sources near the Project and Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp.
ISC-06-FNIHB	6.4 Effect to Health, Social or Economic Conditions of Indigenous Peoples  "YFFN believes that this project will have a very positive effect on the Indigenous people and surrounding communities" (pg. 60).	The proponent claims that the Project will have a positive impact on the community and neighbouring First Nations. However, the proponent does not elaborate how. The proponent is encouraged to further describe the positive health and social impacts of the Project.  The proponent should describe how York Factory First Nation currently uses the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp and should explain how increased access to the camp could benefit health and social outcomes for the community. For example, increasing access to the camp and traditional territory could enhance community members ability to practice traditional activities, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking and hide tanning; connect with their traditional territory, culture and language; implement and execute land stewardship and long-term environmental monitoring programs; and expand existing camp activities.	The proponent should include additional information on the positive health and social impacts of the Project on York Factory First Nation community members and neighbouring First Nations.	The proponent should include additional information on the positive health and social impacts of the Project on York Factory First Nation community members and neighbouring First Nations.
ISC-07-FNIHB	6.4 Effect to Health, Social or Economic Conditions of Indigenous Peoples	The Project is in a remote location; approximately 100-200km away from the nearest communities. It is unclear who will benefit from medical flights and emergency services. The proponent should provide additional information on who may access medical flights or emergency	The proponent should provide additional information on medical evacuations during the construction and operation phases of the Project.	The proponent should provide additional information on medical evacuations.

	“The Project will allow easier access for medical and emergency services that is greatly needed as well as provide safer and reliable transportation for all into the area (including their neighbours)” (pg.61).	services (e.g., individuals who are injured or become ill while at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp or the York Factory National Historical Site), and which community or service centre the medical flights will go to.  If an accident or malfunction occurs during the construction or operation phase of the Project, where will workers be medically evacuated to?		
ISC-08-FNIHB	6.4 Effect to Health, Social or Economic Conditions of Indigenous Peoples	The proponent should consider the potential positive and negative health and social impacts of the Project on First Nations children and youth. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meaningful and stable employment for First Nations youth age 18-30 during the construction and operation phases of the Project;</li> <li>• an increase in the amount/frequency of culture camps for First Nations children and youth held at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp;</li> <li>• the safety of First Nations children and youth at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp during the construction and operation phases of the Project; and</li> <li>• the potential increase of drugs and alcohol at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp due to workers being housed onsite.</li> </ul>	The proponent should consider the potential positive and negative health and social impacts of the Project on First Nations children and youth.  To ensure the health and safety of workers and First Nations children and youth at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp, the proponent could implement a dry policy (e.g., drugs and alcohol are prohibited on the premises).	The proponent should include information on the positive and negative health and social impacts of the Project on First Nations children and youth.  The proponent could implement a dry policy for workers at the Ten Shilling Creek traditional camp and aerodrome.

Please insert additional rows as necessary.