

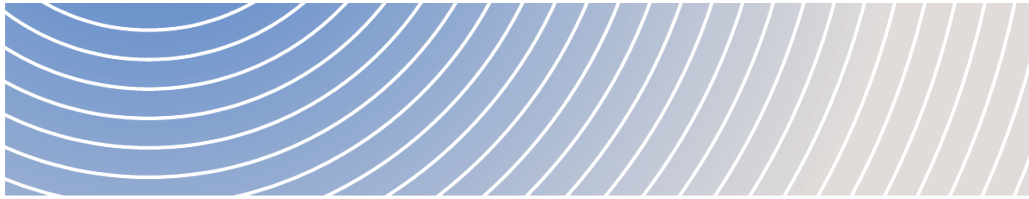


Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Webequie Supply Road Project

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT



June 2026



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Executive Summary

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) conducted an impact assessment of the Webequie Supply Road (the project) proposed by Webequie First Nation (the proponent) according to the requirements of the [Impact Assessment Act](#) (IAA). The proponent is proposing the construction and operation, including maintenance, of an all-season road, approximately 107 kilometres long, connecting the Webequie Airport and the McFaulds Lake area in northern Ontario. The road corridor would accommodate an industrial supply road that could enable future infrastructure development, such as transmission lines and broadband. As proposed, the project would connect Webequie First Nation to existing mineral exploration activities and potential future mineral development in the Ring of Fire area. The project also could become part of a future all-season road network connecting Webequie First Nation and the Ring of Fire area to the provincial highway system at Nakina.

The impact assessment was carried out in coordination with the Government of Ontario, who conducted a comprehensive environmental assessment under its [Environmental Assessment Act](#). IAAC worked with the province to align the federal impact assessment with the provincial environmental assessment.

In addition to coordination with the Government of Ontario, IAAC collaborated with federal authorities, Indigenous communities, and other participants to assess the likely effects of the project.

- IAAC consulted and engaged with Indigenous communities throughout the impact assessment in a manner consistent with Canada’s commitment to reconciliation and the principles of free, prior and informed consent. IAAC considered Indigenous Knowledge that was provided to inform the impact assessment.
- IAAC worked with the proponent, considering information presented in its Impact Statement and other submissions.
- IAAC considered specialist or expert information or knowledge from federal authorities, including Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, Health Canada, Women and Gender Equality Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada.
- IAAC engaged with the public, inviting comments at various points during the impact assessment, and considered input received.

This final Impact Assessment Report (IA Report) provides information about the impact assessment and sets out IAAC’s rationale and conclusions. It also provides a summary of the consultation process with Indigenous communities that was conducted in order to fulfill the federal Crown’s duty to consult.

IAAC’s impact assessment took into account the project’s likely non-negligible “adverse effects within federal jurisdiction” and “direct or incidental adverse effects” (collectively

referred to as “adverse federal effects”). IAAC considered a range of effect pathways that could result in adverse federal effects. For example, IAAC considered changes to boreal caribou populations as a pathway to an adverse federal effect on “the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous Peoples”, given concerns raised by Indigenous communities during the assessment. The report is focused on adverse federal effects and effects pathways that are key issues. Where likely residual adverse federal effects were predicted to occur after the implementation of mitigation measures, IAAC assessed cumulative adverse federal effects, that is, effects that are likely to result from the residual effects of the project interacting with effects from other physical activities. IAAC’s conclusions regarding the likelihood of significance of adverse federal effects are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: IAAC's conclusions on adverse federal effects

Adverse federal effect	IAAC conclusion
Effects on fish and fish habitat	Residual effects and cumulative effects to which the project contributes are likely to be significant to a low extent, due primarily to degradation and loss of habitat that may not be fully compensated but that would have limited spatial and temporal overlaps with effects from other projects.
Effects on migratory birds	Residual effects and cumulative effects to which the project contributes are not likely to be significant, as mitigation measures would limit infrequent residual effects to the project footprint, with minimal spatial and temporal overlap with effects from other projects.
Effects resulting from physical activities carried out on federal lands (Webequie First Nation reserve)	Residual effects are not likely to be significant, as mitigation measures are expected to allow the maintenance of sustainable wildlife populations and of air quality parameter levels below federal guidelines, limits or objectives. Cumulative effects to which the project contributes are likely to be significant to a low extent due to habitat loss and degradation of caribou and wolverine habitat on the Webequie First Nation reserve interacting with habitat changes from other projects throughout the species’ respective ranges.
Effects on the environment on federal lands (Webequie First Nation reserve)	The likely effects to the environment on federal lands are considered within the assessment of effects resulting from activities carried out on federal lands. No other effects to the environment on federal lands are likely.

Adverse federal effect	IAAC conclusion
<p>Direct or incidental adverse effects from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Act authorization(s); • Canadian Navigable Waters Act work approvals; • SARA permit(s); • Explosives Act explosives licence(s); and • Indian Act aggregate-removal permit. 	<p>The likely direct and incidental adverse effects associated with federal permits are considered within the assessment of effects on fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, effects on the environment on federal lands and impacts on Indigenous Peoples and their rights throughout the IA report. No other direct or incidental adverse effects are likely.</p>
<p>Effects on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Residual effects to which the project contributes are likely to be significant to a low extent, due primarily to displacement of species of importance for fishing, hunting, harvesting and gathering away from some preferred sites as well as reduced safe access and quality of experience within the project footprint. Cumulative effects to which the project contributes are likely to be significant to a low extent for traditional activities except for hunting of caribou and other ungulates, for which the effects would be significant to a moderate extent, given that the project in combination with other foreseeable projects would alter movement patterns and range areas, affecting the availability of the resources.</p>
<p>Effects on the physical and cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples and effects on structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance to Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Residual effects and cumulative effects to which the project contributes are likely to be significant to a low extent, due primarily to partial degradation of sites of importance and sensory disturbances which would change the experience of Indigenous persons visiting those sites.</p>
<p>Effects on the health, social or economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Residual effects are likely to be significant to a low extent, due primarily to the added strain on social infrastructure and cultural continuity to Webequie First Nation from an influx of project-related workers, but in a context where Webequie First Nation demonstrated its willingness to withstand this strain to benefit from the project. Cumulative effects to which the project contributes are likely to be significant up to a moderate extent, due primarily to the considerable interactions between the effects of the project and those of future</p>

Adverse federal effect	IAAC conclusion
	projects, which would further strain the social infrastructure of Indigenous communities in the region.

The impact assessment also took into account the adverse federal effects of malfunctions and accidents that may occur in connection with the project.

This IA Report was provided to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature (the Minister) on June 19, 2026. The Minister will decide whether the adverse federal effects indicated in the IA Report are likely to be significant, and, if so, the extent of their significance. If applicable, the Minister will then decide if the significant adverse federal effects are justified in the public interest based on the report and the decision-making factors set out in section 63 of the IAA. Table 2 identifies these factors and presents IAAC’s summary conclusions regarding these factors. Alternatively, the Minister may pass these decisions to the Governor in Council.

Table 2: IAAC’s conclusions regarding factors to be taken into account in considering whether significant adverse federal effects are justified in the public interest

Factor	IAAC conclusion
The impact that the likely effects of the project may have on any Indigenous group and any adverse impact that those effects might have on Indigenous rights (Sections 4.3 and 4.4)	<p>The project is likely to result in adverse effects on Indigenous Peoples, as described in Table 1. In addition, the likely effects of the project would have positive economic impacts for Indigenous Peoples and provide opportunities for self-determination.</p> <p>The likely adverse effects from the project are likely to have adverse impacts on Indigenous People’s rights as recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Specifically, low to moderate severity of impacts on the hunting and trapping rights, low severity of impacts on rights to fishing and water, and low to moderate severity impacts on the right to a continued way of life for Indigenous communities that would be most directly impacted or reported some uses in the project footprint: Attawapiskat First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Webequie First Nation and Weenusk First Nation; and negligible to moderate severity of impacts on the hunting and trapping rights, and negligible to low severity of impacts on rights to fishing and water and the right to a continued way of life for Indigenous communities whose preferred areas for the exercise of harvesting and cultural rights have limited overlap with the</p>

Factor	IAAC conclusion
	geographic scope of anticipated project effects: Aroland First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug.
The extent to which the likely effects of the project contribute to the Government of Canada's ability to meet its environmental obligations and its commitments in respect of climate change (Sections 5 and 6)	<p>The likely effects of the project do not contribute to meeting Canada's environmental obligations, specifically as it relates to biodiversity as adverse effects of the project on species at risk, including caribou and wolverine, are predicted to remain. IAAC considered the adverse federal effects in Table 1 and effects on species at risk to inform its analysis.</p> <p>The likely effects of the project do not contribute to meeting Canada's climate change commitments, specifically greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets as the GHG emissions from the project would continue beyond 2050 and there is overall uncertainty on whether the project infrastructure could contribute indirectly to Canada's ability to meet its climate change commitments in the long term. IAAC considered the adverse federal effects in Table 1 and effects on net GHG emissions to inform its analysis.</p>
The extent to which the likely effects of the project contribute to sustainability (Section 7)	The likely effects of the project would result in net positive contributions to sustainability to a low extent, notably through positive effects on employment and the economy as well as community well-being, economic reconciliation and self-determination for Webequie First Nation. IAAC's analysis also considered adverse federal effects, notably on current use of lands for traditional practices by Indigenous Peoples, in the context of changes to the environment and the transfer of Indigenous Knowledge.

This is the final IA Report for the impact assessment of the project. This report, along with potential conditions, supports decision making in relation to the project. In addition to the impact assessment, the project may require federal permits for specific activities, including [Fisheries Act](#) authorization(s), [Canadian Navigable Waters Act](#) work approvals, [Species at Risk Act](#) permit(s), [Explosives Act](#) explosives licence(s), [Indian Act](#) aggregate-removal permit. If it is decided that any likely significant adverse federal effects are justified in the public interest, IAAC will continue to coordinate the federal permits required for the project.

IAAC also notes that the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area is underway. While it is not a decision-making process, it aims to provide Indigenous communities with access to information on current and future conditions within their traditional territory, which would be available to support and inform future decision-making in the



Ring of Fire area. The suite of measures including funding, research and data platforms, and other initiatives that will be provided through the Regional Assessment will be an additional means by which Indigenous communities will have access to information on conditions within their traditional territory to support and inform future planning and decision making in the Ring of Fire area.