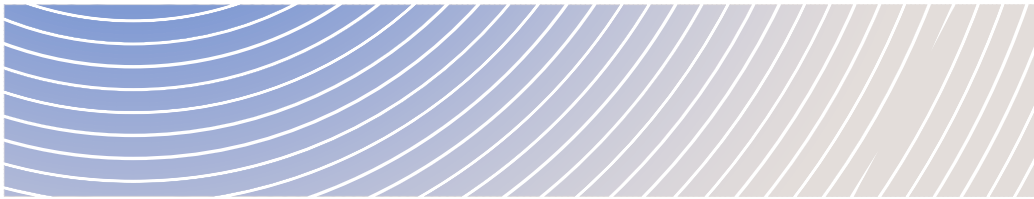


Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan



IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE SUNCOR BASE MINE EXTENSION
PROJECT

January 4, 2022

UPDATED VERSION



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada

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Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN FOR THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE SUNCOR BASE MINE EXTENSION PROJECT

January 4, 2022

1. Introduction

This document is an updated version of the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP) for the impact assessment of the Suncor Base Mine Extension Project (“the Project”). This updated version reflects changes to planned consultation activities for the Project. This IEPP replaces any previous plans, including the one released on May 31, 2021.

On August 7, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) determined that an impact assessment is required for the Project, pursuant to Subsection 16(1) of Canada’s *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act).

On January 28, 2021, the Agency announced that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change referred the impact assessment of the Project to an independent review panel, pursuant to the Act. Reasons contributing to the decision to refer to a review panel include the consideration of potential adverse environmental effects to fish and fish habitat, species at risk, migratory birds, and potential effects from greenhouse gas emissions. Other key considerations include potential impacts on the rights of Indigenous peoples, general public concern, and the opportunity to cooperate with the province of Alberta.

The Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP) outlines opportunities and methods for meaningful engagement and consultation with potentially affected Indigenous communities throughout the impact assessment process for the Project. The IEPP is intended to be flexible and does not preclude the Agency from making changes to the approaches described in the IEPP in order to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment process.

Throughout this IEPP, the terms “Indigenous community” or “Indigenous communities” refer to Indigenous peoples connected by Nation, Band, geographical location, community roles and other shared values and identities. Within the context of the impact assessment process, the Agency encourages the active participation of a community’s diversity such as the Chief and Council, community leaders, as well as other members of the community, such as women, Elders, youth and knowledge holders.

Throughout this IEPP, “engagement” refers to the spectrum of engagement defined in the Policy Context for Indigenous Participation in Impact Assessment <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/policy-indigenous-participation-ia.html> and “consultation” refers to the Government of Canada’s duty to

consult, and, where appropriate, accommodate, on the potential adverse impacts of the Project on the exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

To complement this IEPP, interested Indigenous communities may develop community-specific consultation plans, in collaboration with the Agency, to describe the community's specific objectives for consultation, or any unique features of the impact assessment and consultation process pertaining to that community.

The Agency developed a separate Public Participation Plan to describe how the Agency plans to engage with the public during the impact assessment process.

2. Description of the proposed Project

Suncor Energy Inc. (the proponent) is proposing to develop the Project to sustain the supply of bitumen to the existing upgraders at the proponent's Oil Sands Base Plant operation (Base Plant). The Project includes an open pit mining operation and associated infrastructure that is required to supply oil sands to new bitumen froth production facilities and deliver bitumen froth by pipeline to the existing Base Plant facilities where further processing occurs, including upgrading into various product blends for market. The Project would be located adjacent to existing Base Plant operations, approximately three kilometres north of Fort McMurray, Alberta, within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. If approved, Project construction is expected to start in 2026 and the footprint is anticipated to be approximately 30,000 hectares.

For more information on the impact assessment of the Suncor Base Mine Extension Project or to view the information and comments received, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Public Registry) at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80521?culture=en-CA>.

3. Objectives of Indigenous engagement and partnership

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's objectives:

- Conduct meaningful Crown consultation on the potential positive and adverse effects (direct, indirect, cumulative, residual and incidental) of the Project and adverse impacts of the Project on the exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* (Aboriginal or Treaty rights);
- Meaningfully engage with Indigenous communities regarding Indigenous knowledge they may wish to apply when considering potential effects and impacts of the Project and impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights by referring to the [Indigenous Knowledge Framework](#) and guidance documents;

- Meaningfully engage with Indigenous communities throughout the impact assessment process with opportunities to provide comments on key documents, the engagement process and, if necessary, submit information requests;
- Engagement should be consistent with the Government of Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) as a comprehensive international human rights instrument and Canada's roadmap for reconciliation. The Declaration also emphasizes the need to work together in partnership and respect, as articulated through the principle of free, prior and informed consent. This principle reflects working together in good faith on decisions that impact Indigenous peoples, with the intention to achieve consensus;
- Include Indigenous knowledge, if provided, in the assessment of potential effects and impacts of the Project and impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights, and explain how Indigenous knowledge was considered or used in the assessment;
- Provide meaningful opportunities for collaboration with Indigenous communities on specific elements of the impact assessment as identified by Indigenous communities. This may include, where appropriate, collaboration with Indigenous communities on community developed methodology or processes to assess the impact of the Project on Aboriginal or Treaty rights; and
- Conduct meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities on measures to avoid, mitigate or minimize potential adverse impacts of the Project on Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Objectives identified by Indigenous communities during the Planning phase:

During the Planning phase, some Indigenous communities identified values and objectives for Indigenous consultation for this Project. The Agency summarizes these as:

- Consultation needs to be early and meaningful. Where appropriate, accommodation for adverse impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights due to the Project would need to be considered. Additional consultation objectives which would add to the meaningfulness of consultations include:
 - Engaging communities in detailed discussions regarding all aspects of the Project;
 - Providing communities sufficient time to engage with community members regarding the Project;
 - When possible, the proponent organizes face-to-face meetings with communities to provide a general overview of the Project;
 - Identifying both positive and negative Project effects (including jobs and training); and
 - Respecting diverse roles of Indigenous communities within the Project area.
- Consultation needs to respect community and or cultural protocols;
- Communication needs to be open and transparent, including:
 - Distributing project updates regularly via email throughout the impact assessment phases and milestones;
 - Scheduling meetings to accommodate community schedules; and

- Having face-to-face meetings only where appropriate and in keeping with local and provincial health guidelines;
- Evidence needs to be provided to demonstrate that Project design, mitigation measures, Crown actions and decisions are informed through broad and ongoing consultation with Indigenous communities, including:
 - Potential impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty rights assessment;
 - Community concerns, interests and traditional values;
 - Community health and well-being, and social conditions; and
 - Cumulative effects assessment.

4. Indigenous communities

The Agency identified the following lists of communities that may be potentially impacted by the Project. This includes communities where the Project may adversely impact the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and also Indigenous peoples with asserted rights where an assessment of effects under section 22 of the Act may be required. This list is based on information available in the Government of Canada's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System, as well as information shared by Indigenous communities during initial meetings and throughout the Planning phase.

Although the impact assessment process is not a rights-determination process, the Crown acknowledges that the content and extent of the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate varies according to the nature of the rights (established or potential) and the severity of the Project's potential impact on these rights. The Agency's assessment of the extent of the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate is at its preliminary phase. The Agency wishes to complete this exercise in collaboration with Indigenous communities during the Impact Statement phase.

The Government of Canada is committed to renewing its relationship with Indigenous peoples, which is based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. Through this IEPP, the Agency supports this commitment. In addition to the IEPP, the Agency plans to engage Indigenous organizations that have indicated an interest in the impact assessment process using the engagement tools and methods outlined in the Public Participation Plan.

4.1. Crown consultation list of Indigenous communities

The Crown will consult with Indigenous communities listed¹ below to understand the concerns and potential impacts of the project on their exercise of potential or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights

¹ The list of Indigenous communities identified here may change as knowledge of the effects and potential impacts of the project is gained, or if the project or its components are modified during the

and, where appropriate, make accommodations. These consultations will comprise an integral part of the work that will support the assessment of the Project.

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
Athabasca Landing Métis Community Association
Bigstone Cree Nation
Chard Métis Community Association
Chipewyan Prairie First Nation
Deninu K'ue First Nation
Fort Chipewyan Métis Nation Local #125
Fort McKay First Nation
Fort McKay Métis Nation
Fort McMurray #468 First Nation
Fort McMurray Métis #1935
K'atl'odeeche First Nation ²
Lakeland Métis Community Association
Little Red River Cree Nation
Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 1
Mikisew Cree First Nation
Owl River Métis Community
Salt River First Nation
Smith's Landing First Nation
Whitefish Lake First Nation #459
Willow Lake Métis Association

impact assessment. The Agency reserves the right to modify this list based on additional information gathered during the impact assessment.

² K'atl'odeeche First Nation does not want to participate in the impact assessment for this project.

4.2. Crown list of additional Indigenous communities to be engaged

The Crown will engage with Indigenous communities listed³ below to understand the concerns and impacts where an assessment of effects under section 22 of the Act may be required.

Driftpile Cree Nation
Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement
East Prairie Métis Settlement
Fort Resolution Métis Council
Fort Smith Métis Council
Gift Lake Métis Settlement
Hay River Métis Council
Heart Lake First Nation
Kikino Métis Settlement
Louis Bull Tribe
Métis Local 1954 Touchwood Lake/Big Bay Area
Métis Local 2002 Buffalo Lake
Métis Local 2097 Lac La Biche
Peavine Métis Settlement
Original Fort McMurray/Fort McKay Band
Society/Clearwater River Band #175

³ The list of Indigenous communities identified here may change as knowledge of the effects and potential impacts of the project is gained, or if the project or its components are modified during the impact assessment. The Agency reserves the right to modify this list based on additional information gathered during the impact assessment.

5. Engagement and consultation tools, and methods

Due to Covid-19, the Agency intends to plan virtual meetings until in-person meetings are deemed appropriate. Any in-person meetings would happen in accordance with local and provincial health guidelines, and would only occur at the request of, and with consent from the Indigenous community.

The following is a list of tools and methods identified by the Agency and Indigenous communities during the Planning phase to ensure meaningful consultation in the impact assessment process, including:

- Providing funding under the Participant Funding Program (<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding-programs.html>) to support Indigenous communities in participating in the impact assessment process;
- Providing clear information on available funding, impact assessment process timelines, and the workload expected of Indigenous communities to ensure meaningful participation and consultation;
- Communicating with Indigenous communities in an ongoing, open, and transparent manner;
- Considering cultural needs including seasonal issues (e.g., harvesting and hunting periods) and cultural protocols (e.g. offerings, such as tobacco) and spirituality (opening prayers);
- Following community consultation policies or protocols in consultation activities, to the extent possible;
- Establishing clear processes for identifying and designing accommodation measures, as applicable;
- Holding technical meetings with Indigenous communities and the proponent and/or expert authorities to support Indigenous communities' technical review of key documents and participation throughout the impact assessment process while considering timelines and capacity of Indigenous communities;
- Providing reasonable time for in-community visits, as appropriate;
- Establishing requirements for diverse participation (e.g. accessibility of meeting locations, timing of meetings, transportation);
- Providing individualized and/or group training on the impact assessment process and how to effectively participate in the process, including offering the Agency's Level 1 and Level 2 training;
- Providing translators and/or interpreters to support meetings between Indigenous communities and the Crown; and
- Providing summaries of key documents, fact sheets, infographics, PowerPoint tools, booklets, and audio-visual materials in plain language and in an accessible format.

In addition, the Agency will explore opportunities for:

- Translating key high-level summary documents whenever reasonably possible;
- Accommodating communication and consultation processes according to the communities' schedule, where possible; and
- Workshop formats to discuss key documents through the impact assessment process, where appropriate.

The Agency will work bilaterally with individual Indigenous communities, on items not listed above, in the development of an Indigenous community-specific consultation work plan as appropriate.

6. Distinction between the Review Panel and the Crown Consultation Operations Team

In an impact assessment process involving a Review Panel, the Crown conducts its Consultation activities in parallel to the review panel process. Once the Review Panel is established:

- Members of the Crown Consultation team can not exchange information with the review panel, other than through the review panel process in a manner consistent with all other participants;
- Review Panel Team and Crown Consultation team will invite Indigenous communities to participate in the review panel and consultation processes, which are conducted in parallel. The Crown Consultation team will make efforts to avoid duplication and ensure an efficient process while ensuring that the Review Panel receives the necessary information from each party to allow the Review Panel to meet their mandate.
- The Review Panel will prepare the Impact Assessment Report. The Crown Consultation team will prepare the Crown Consultation and Accommodation Report collaboratively with interested Indigenous communities. The decisions of the Minister or the Governor-in-Council will take into account both documents.

7. Engagement and consultation approach


The table below provides a description of the main phases in the impact assessment process and an explanation as to how the Agency, on behalf of the federal Crown, proposes to engage and consult with Indigenous communities during each phase. This table describes objectives of each phase and engagement methods proposed throughout the impact assessment process.

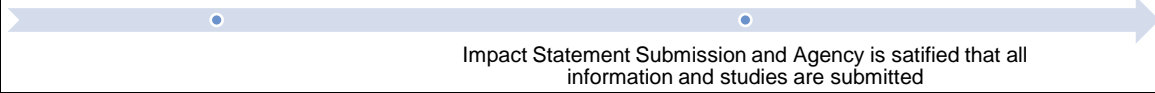
Prior to the determination that an impact assessment was required, the Agency consulted with Indigenous communities on the Project Description and prepared the Summary of Issues. Subsequently, the Agency provided the Summary of Issues to the proponent for preparation of the Detailed Project Description, including a response to the Summary of Issues. The Agency included the key issues identified by Indigenous communities in the Summary of Issues, and directed the proponent to refer back to the Indigenous community submissions to ensure they use the appropriate

context and intent of the comments in their response. The Agency received input from Indigenous communities and finalized the development of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (Guidelines) and the IEPP.

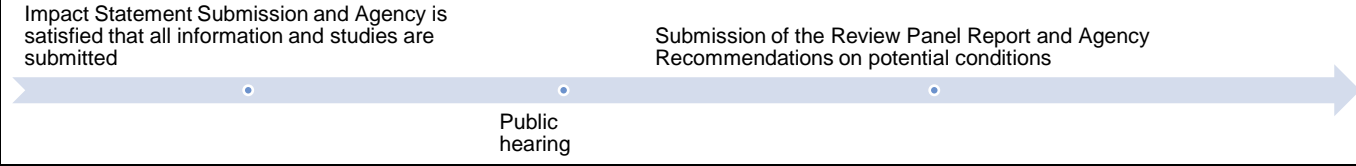
Specific Indigenous communities to whom the Crown owes a duty to consult and who wish to work with the Agency to identify consultation activities beyond those included within this IEPP are welcome to express their interest in an Indigenous community-specific consultation work plan during the Impact Statement phase. The Agency will work with Indigenous communities to develop community-specific consultation work plans, as needed. Table 1 provides a high-level list of the proposed approaches and activities.


Table 1 – Table of Indigenous engagement approaches and activities


Expected Agency or Review Panel activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<p>Phase 1: Planning</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support understanding of the proposed project ➤ Increase Indigenous communities awareness of the impact assessment process and meaningful participation ➤ Obtain comments and feedback on documents related to the Planning phase and to inform the development of IEPP and Guidelines ➤ Share information on the impact assessment process and on opportunities for participation <p>Timeline: 180 days excluding any timeline suspension or extension</p> 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency responds to any inquiries, sends letters / emails informing Indigenous communities of upcoming Project, and posts key documents on the Registry • Agency administers funding programs throughout the impact assessment process • Agency provides online training on Impact Assessment process • Agency hosts virtual meetings with Indigenous communities to support their understanding of IA and seek their engagement in development of the draft Guidelines and IEPP • Agency will share how feedback has been reflected or not in the Guidelines and IEPP with rationale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities participate in virtual or in-person meetings or community sessions to discuss and inform key planning documents • Indigenous communities comment on the Project Description, the draft Guidelines and the IEPP • From February 26 to May 7, 2021 the Agency invited comments on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails and/or calls • Online comments • Virtual meetings and/or workshops* • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry <p>*Face-to-face meetings occur only where appropriate and in keeping with local and provincial health guidelines, and when agreed to by all parties</p>

Expected Agency or Review Panel activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<p>Phase 2 – Impact Statement</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase Indigenous communities' awareness of the impact assessment process and meaningful participation in Review Panel process and public hearings ➤ Obtain comments / views on the proponent's Impact Statement and on the Panel's Terms of Reference ➤ Notify communities of key steps in the process such as the receipt of the Impact Statement, the appointment of the Review Panel and the comment period on the Impact Statement ➤ Identify potential impacts on exercise of S.35 rights and avoidance, mitigation or accommodation measures in collaboration with Indigenous communities <p>Timeline: 3 years max</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Notice of Commencement</p> 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency works with Indigenous communities to implement the IEPP, to develop and implement Indigenous community-specific consultation plans and has ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities on conducting a rights impact assessment • Agency invites comments on the draft version of the Review Panel Terms of Reference and, if applicable, any agreement with Alberta pertaining to the establishment of a Joint Review Panel or coordination of assessment procedures • Agency provides Indigenous communities with guidance on how to protect confidential information • Agency posts Impact Statement and Panel Terms of Reference or Joint Review Panel Agreement including Terms of Reference on the Registry and sends notification emails to Indigenous communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities present comments on the partnership possibilities and the ways they wish to participate in the assessment process to inform the drafting, and implementation of, community-specific consultation plans • Indigenous communities submit comments related to Indigenous knowledge, if applicable, that the proponent considers when drafting the impact statement • Indigenous communities collaborate with the proponent to collect relevant information about the project's potential positive and adverse effects (direct and incidental), as well as the mitigation and monitoring measures and may wish to co-draft certain sections of the impact statement • Indigenous communities submit opinions or comments on the proponent's Impact Statement • Indigenous communities share their points of view on the project's potential impacts on their rights recognized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails and/or calls • Online comments • Virtual meetings and/or workshops • In-person information session* • In-community meetings* • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry <p>*Face-to-face meetings occur only where appropriate and in keeping with local and provincial health guidelines, and when agreed to by all parties</p>

Expected Agency or Review Panel activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency will work with Indigenous communities to understand the project's potential impacts on their rights and seek mitigation and accommodation measures, as appropriate • Agency will hold an online comment period on the Impact Statement. The comments will assist in determining whether the Impact Statement contains all the information and studies requested in the Guidelines, and, if applicable, for the review panel to conduct a public hearing • Agency issues requests to the proponent for information or studies required to satisfy the Guidelines 	<p>by section 35 and collaborate with the Agency to produce a preliminary assessment of the Project's potential impacts on their rights and seek appropriate mitigation and accommodation measures, as appropriate</p>	
<p>Phase 3 – Impact Assessment</p>		

Expected Agency or Review Panel activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process by a Review Panel, and promote participation in the public hearing ➤ Participate in the public hearing (Indigenous communities, the Agency and the federal authorities) ➤ Develop, consult on and submit Agency's preliminary analysis and conclusions related to potential Project impacts on Indigenous communities to Review Panel ➤ Obtain comments from participants on Agency's recommendations regarding potential conditions ➤ Consult on the draft version of the Crown Consultation and Accommodation Report and finalize it <p>Timeline: Up to 600 days unless the Agency determines additional time is required to cooperate with the Alberta Energy Regulator</p>  <p>The diagram shows a horizontal timeline arrow pointing right. Three milestones are marked with dots: 1. 'Impact Statement Submission and Agency is satisfied that all information and studies are submitted' at the start. 2. 'Public hearing' in the middle. 3. 'Submission of the Review Panel Report and Agency Recommendations on potential conditions' at the end.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Panel will organize information sessions to explain the public hearing procedures and timelines for submissions to the panel • Review Panel may hold additional public hearing sessions or provide additional participation opportunities, as required, to fulfil its Terms of Reference. • Agency may provide a technical submission or oral presentation during the public hearing • Review Panel may accept closing remarks prior to closing the record and preparing its report. The Review Panel Report** will contain its rationale, conclusions, recommendations, and potential conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities participate in the public hearing • Indigenous communities submit comments to the Review Panel on the project's potential adverse effects, on their rights, on the integration of Indigenous knowledge, and proposed mitigation or accommodation measures • Indigenous communities may have a joint submission with the Agency to present for the public hearing • Indigenous communities work collaboratively with the Agency and whole of government to draft the Impacts on Rights Assessment and the Consultation and Accommodation Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails and/or calls • Online comments • Virtual meeting and/or workshops • In-person information session* • In-community meetings* • Review Panel public hearing sessions • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry <p>*Face-to-face meetings occur only where appropriate and in keeping with local and provincial health guidelines, and when agreed to by all parties</p>

Expected Agency or Review Panel activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency collaborates with Indigenous communities on the Crown Consultation and Accommodation Report • Agency engages on potential conditions • Agency posts a notice of submission of the Review Panel's report on the Registry and notify participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities present their points of view to the Agency concerning the adequacy of the consultation throughout the impact assessment process, on the potential conditions and draft version of the Consultation and Accommodation Report 	<p>** A summary of comments received will also be included in the Panel Report</p>
<p>Phase 4 – Decision</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inform the proponent, Indigenous communities and the public about the Decision Statement issued by the Minister ➤ Increase awareness of the reasons for the public interest determination made by the Governor in Council, the decision statement and the potential conditions <p>Timeline: 90 days</p>  <p>The diagram features a horizontal blue arrow pointing to the right. Two blue dots are placed on the arrow. The first dot is positioned at approximately one-third of the arrow's length and is labeled 'Submission of the Review Panel Report and Agency Recommendations on potential conditions'. The second dot is positioned at approximately two-thirds of the arrow's length and is labeled 'Public Interest Determination by Governor in Council and Issuance of Decision Statement by the Minister'.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency posts on the Registry the Decision Statement, including the reasons for the public interest determination and potential conditions • Agency has ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities, briefs them on the Minister's Decision Statement and provides them with opportunities to learn about next steps post-impact assessment decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities have an ongoing dialogue with the Agency about the assessment of the potential adverse impacts on rights and possible accommodation options, if applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry • Notifications sent by email

Expected Agency or Review Panel activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<p>Phase 5 – Post-Decision</p> <p>Objectives: if the project is approved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inform of the possibility of establishing a Monitoring Committee to support ongoing follow-up and monitoring program ➤ Inform participants of potential amendments to the Decision Statement ➤ Inform the public of follow-up, monitoring activities and results from follow-up program and publish the information on the Registry <p>Timeline: Ongoing</p> 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency will conduct compliance and enforcement activities and post results on the Registry • Agency will consult on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should the proponent submit a Project change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities may participate in the Monitoring Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comments • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry

8. Participant Funding

During the Planning phase, Indigenous communities received grant funding to support their comments on the Initial Project Description, the draft Guidelines, and the draft IEPP. Funding is also available to support Indigenous communities to participate throughout the impact assessment process. The opportunity to submit applications for funding will be made available to the Indigenous communities during the Impact Statement phase. These participant-funding opportunities will support the Indigenous communities to comment on the proponent's Impact Statement and the review panel Report, including the draft Consultation and Accommodation Report and potential conditions.

For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding, see the Funding Program on the following page <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding-programs.html>.

9. Federal Agencies' roles and responsibilities

The Plan issued at the end of the Planning phase describes the permits and authorizations that may be required for the Project to proceed.

Federal authorities identified in the Plan as well as those with additional expert advice (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs; Economic and Social Development Canada; Health Canada; Indigenous Services Canada; Infrastructure Canada; Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada; and Women and Gender Equality) will engage as needed with the Agency, proponent, Indigenous communities and other parties to clarify information requirements related to its specialist or expert information and knowledge. Throughout the impact assessment process, federal authorities may also review and analyze the proponent's Impact Statement and the review panel Report; support and participate in the Agency's Crown consultation activities; and support the Agency and Indigenous communities in understanding, assessing and addressing impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

The Agency is the Crown Consultation Coordinator for the purpose of streamlining the impact assessment process. The Agency has collaborated and will continue to collaborate with all federal authorities and use their expertise throughout all impact assessment phases.

10. How to submit comments

Until the Review Panel closes the record for the impact assessment, comments may be submitted during the process by using the "Submit a comment" feature on the Project's page on the Public Registry (reference number 80521, at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80521?culture=en-CA>). Attachments can be uploaded using this feature.

If you have any difficulties with the submission process, please contact the Agency or the Review Panel's secretariat (following the establishment of the Review Panel), using the contact information below. Comments may also be submitted by email to basemine-minebase@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or by regular mail.

Comments and other documents received by the Agency or Review Panel will form part of the Project record and will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website. The [Agency's Submission Policy](#) determines what information can be shared publicly and what information should remain private. For more information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the [Agency's Privacy Notice](#). If you do not want your comment to be posted on the Public Registry, please contact the Agency before submitting your comment.

If you have questions or need information, please contact:

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