

APPENDIX 7-C

Métis Nation of Ontario Traditional Knowledge Land Use Severity Assessment

Appendix 7-C: Summary of MNO Severity Assessment on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights, Proposed Mitigation Measures, and Potential Net Effects

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
Hunting and Trapping Wildlife	The Project is anticipated to have a very significant impact on hunting and trapping practices due to the use of herbicides, the creation of new access roads, habitat disturbance/destruction, noise pollution and disturbances, restricted access to harvesting areas, and vegetation removal. These effects may potentially contaminate harvested and consumed species, change wildlife migration and availability including in high-use hunting areas, increase hunting pressure and hunting and trapping challenges, decrease hunting success and income, and disrupt cultural practices. Impacts may occur primarily during construction but could extend into the long term due to changes in habitat, access, or resource availability. Effects are expected within the LSA and may overlap with Métis harvesting areas adjacent to the Project. These effects inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.	Very Significant	- Vegetation management including retention of compatible vegetation where practical, minimizing clearing and access-related disturbance to the extent possible, use of native species for revegetation, and reclamation of temporarily disturbed areas to support habitat stability. - Implementation of wildlife habitat mitigation measures to reduce disturbance to wildlife populations. - Implement noise and vibration control measures and maintain equipment in good working condition to minimize disturbance to wildlife and land users during construction. - Implementation of spill prevention and response measures to reduce contamination risks. - Manage and control access, including use of ROW. - Effective management and communication of herbicide use to Métis communities. - Scheduling construction activities, where feasible, to minimize the disruption to key harvesting periods. - Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.	- Air Quality / Dust (Section 7.7.2.1) - Spills (Section 7.7.4) - Access/Transportation (Section 7.4.1.1) - Noise and Vibration (Section 7.4.5) - Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7) - Wildlife (Section 7.7.7.4) - Surface Water/Water Quality (Section 7.7.3.2)	Following mitigation, net effects on wildlife habitat and availability are anticipated. Temporary disruptions to access and hunting activities may occur during construction and will be restored afterward, where feasible. Wildlife habitat within the ROW will be permanently altered, which may result in localized changes to wildlife distribution, movement patterns, habitat use, and harvesting opportunities within and adjacent to the Project footprint, including temporary avoidance of the area during construction. However, wildlife availability is not anticipated to be substantially reduced at the broader harvesting-area scale. Métis harvesters and Métis community members who consume harvested wildlife as a country food may experience reductions in hunting and trapping success, changes in access to preferred harvesting locations, and reduced confidence in harvested species, including concerns regarding contamination associated with herbicide use. These effects may be experienced primarily by harvesters who rely on the Project footprint and nearby harvesting locations and may influence hunting and trapping practices, access to country foods, and participation in land-based cultural activities.	Yes
Fishing	The Project is anticipated to have a significant impact on fishing due to construction work, use of heavy machinery, application of herbicides, and new access roads which may lead to potential changes to aquatic habitat, changes to riparian environments including spawning areas, overfishing, decreased water quality and health of fish populations during construction. Impacts	Significant	- Effective management of watercourse crossings within the Project footprint to minimize disturbance to fish habitat. - Protection of aquatic and riparian habitats and water quality through erosion and sediment control. - Compliance with MNR and DFO timing windows and restrictions.	- Fish and Fish Habitat (Section 7.7.7.2) - Surface Water/Water Quality (Section 7.7.3.2) - Spills (Section 7.7.4) - Land Use Planning / Access Management (Section 7.4.1.1)	Following mitigation, net effects on aquatic habitat and water quality are anticipated. Temporary disruptions to access during construction may occur and will be restored afterward, where feasible. Habitat conditions within the Project footprint will be altered in the long term; however, fish availability is not expected to be substantially reduced at the broader harvesting area scale. Localized effects on fish distribution, habitat conditions, and harvesting opportunities may occur, particularly during construction periods that overlap with	Yes

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
	may be noticed acutely during fishing and spawning seasons. Concerns regarding contamination could affect the quality of fish for harvesting and the ability of Métis citizens to rely on fish as a food source. The Project could have long term or permanent effects on fishing, which may cause Métis citizens to avoid their preferred fishing locations and connection to the land and waterways, which are also culturally significant. These effects inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.		- Use existing access routes and watercourse crossings where practical and avoid locating work areas near waterbodies and fish habitat to the extent possible. - Implementation of spill prevention and response measures to reduce contamination risks. - Effective management and communication of herbicide use to Métis Communities. - Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.	Fishing (Section 7.8.5)	sensitive fishing and spawning seasons near watercourse crossings. Métis fish harvesters and the Métis community members who consume harvested fish may experience reduced confidence in harvested fish as a country food due to concerns regarding water quality or potential contamination. These effects may be experienced by harvesters who rely on specific fishing locations, including culturally important waterways identified through the TKLUS, and may influence access to country foods, food security, and the continuation of land-based and water-based cultural practices.	
Gathering Plants and Natural Materials	The Project is anticipated to have a very significant impact on gathering practices due to vegetation clearing, use of herbicides, and construction and maintenance activities. Concerns include contamination of harvested plants and natural materials, declines in the availability of plants for food, medicine and ceremony, recovery periods required for vegetation regrowth, and effects on the safety and quality of harvested plants. Impacts may occur during construction phase and overlap with the gathering seasons. Protection of sacred and ceremonial plants is required. Berry-producing plants may require several years to recover following disturbance. Ceremonial and sacred plants, such as birch and red cedar, may be affected by habitat alteration and vegetation management activities. Changes to harvesting locations and avoidance of gathering areas near the PSA may occur. These effects inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.	Very Significant	- Vegetation and habitat management within the ROW and adjacent areas, including retention of compatible vegetation, minimized clearing and access disturbance, use of native species for revegetation, and reclamation of temporary disturbed areas to support habitat stability. - Effective management and communication of herbicide use to Métis communities. - Providing access to the PSA to Métis harvesters and citizens, when safe and where feasible. - Soil disturbance will be minimized to the extent possible through use of designated work areas, low ground pressure equipment or matting where appropriate, and restoration of disturbed areas to support revegetation and recovery of harvested plant species. - Implementation of spill prevention and response measures to reduce the risk of contamination of vegetation. - Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro	- Air Quality / Dust (Section 7.7.2.1) - Physical Environment / Soils (Section 7.7.1) - Surface Water / Water Quality (Section 7.7.3.2) - Spills (Section 7.7.4) - Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7) - Natural Heritage Features / Wetlands (Section 7.7.7.1)	Following mitigation, net effects on vegetation, wetlands, and soil conditions are anticipated. Disturbed and compacted soils resulting from construction are expected to recover over time, although residual changes may persist in localized areas within the Project footprint. Changes to drainage patterns are expected to be limited and localized, however, residual changes may influence vegetation productivity in some areas. Temporary disruptions to access will be restored post-construction, where feasible. Vegetation clearing and long-term maintenance of the ROW will result in permanent alteration of habitat conditions within the Project footprint. These changes may reduce the availability of plants and natural materials at specific gathering locations. Although these effects are not expected to substantially reduce the overall availability of plant resources at the broader harvesting area scale, regrowth periods for some species, including berry-producing plants, may extend beyond the construction phase. The confidence of Métis harvesters and Métis community members who rely on gathered plants and natural materials may be reduced due to concerns regarding herbicide use or potential contamination. As a result, Métis harvesters may avoid gathering within or near the Project footprint and adjacent areas, which may reduce the use of, or perceived suitability of, areas containing culturally important plants and materials. These effects may influence the ability of Métis harvesters to gather plants and natural materials for food, medicinal, ceremonial, and cultural purposes and may contribute to effects on cultural continuity, knowledge transmission, and food security.	Yes

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
			One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).			
Water, Watersheds, Rivers, and Streams	The Project is anticipated to have a very significant impact on water, watersheds, rivers, and streams due to potential disturbance to waterbodies and riparian areas, including fish habitat and spawning disruption or destruction, use of heavy machinery, potential contamination and spills, and reduced water quality. The region's waterways hold practical and symbolic importance for Métis citizens, with Goulais River identified as a key waterway. Impacts may occur during construction and may extend into the long term due to potential changes to aquatic habitats, water quality and Métis confidence in the health of waterways. Concerns regarding water quality may affect the ability of Métis citizens to rely on water resources as sources of drinking water, and for fishing, other water-based harvesting, and traditional practices. Off-season use of waterways includes snowmobiling and ice fishing. These effects may inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.	Very Significant	- Effective management of watercourse crossings within the Project footprint to minimize disturbance to watercourses, riparian areas, spawning areas and fish habitat. - Implementation of erosion and sediment control measures to protect water quality. - Implementation of spill prevention and response measures to reduce contamination risks. - Restoration of disturbed areas post construction. - Scheduling construction activities, where feasible, in accordance with applicable MNR and DFO timing windows and restrictions for fish spawning, incubation and other sensitive life stages. - Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.	- Surface Water/Water Quality (Section 7.7.3.2) - Spills (Section 7.7.4) - Fish and Fish Habitat (Section 7.7.7.2) - Natural Heritage / Wetlands (Section 7.7.7.1)	Mitigation measures will reduce potential effects on water quality, flow, and hydrological conditions; however, some localized changes may occur during construction, particularly where work near waterbodies or watercourse crossings is required. Temporary disturbances to watercourses, riparian areas, and water quality may occur during construction, particularly at watercourse crossings and locations where work occurs in proximity to waterbodies. While mitigation measures are expected to reduce the potential for erosion, sedimentation, spills, and other contaminants entering surface waters, localized changes to riparian vegetation, drainage conditions, and aquatic habitat may persist within and adjacent to the Project footprint. These changes are not anticipated to substantially affect watershed function or water availability or quality at the broader harvesting-area scale; however, Métis harvesters may experience changes in the use of water resources for drinking water, harvesting and cultural purposes within the PSA. Concerns regarding water quality and potential contamination may also influence confidence in the use of local waterways for drinking, harvesting, and cultural purposes. These effects may be experienced most acutely by Métis citizens who rely on specific waterbodies and waterways within the Project footprint, including culturally significant waterways identified through the TKLUS.	Yes
Climate Change	The Project is anticipated to have a significant impact on climate change due to construction activities, vegetation clearing, creation of waste, and the use of heavy machinery, which may affect air, land, and water systems, wildlife, fish, and plants, and the interconnectedness of ecosystems. While climate change concerns identified through the TKLUS were initially raised in the absence of baseline information, project-specific greenhouse gas assessment information indicates that Project-related climate effects are primarily associated with vegetation clearing and reductions in carbon sequestration capacity. These changes are anticipated to occur primarily during construction but may contribute to long-lasting environmental change, particularly through the removal of	Significant	- Minimize vegetation clearing and disturbance, retain compatible vegetation where feasible, and restore disturbed areas with native species to support ecosystem recovery and carbon sequestration functions. - Apply standard construction best management practices to reduce emissions and disturbance, including minimizing idling, maintaining equipment in good working condition, and optimizing vehicle and equipment use to improve fuel efficiency, where feasible. - Work with Sustainable Forest Licence holders, where feasible, to identify beneficial uses for merchantable timber and reduce the need for burning cleared vegetation.	- Climate Change (Section 7.7.2.3) - Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7)	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects related to climate change are anticipated to be limited. Project-related climate change effects are primarily associated with vegetation clearing and the corresponding loss of carbon storage and sequestration capacity. Construction activities, including vegetation clearing, operation of heavy equipment, transportation, and associated greenhouse gas emissions, will contribute to climate-related environmental change. These effects are expected to be most pronounced during construction; however, reductions in carbon sequestration capacity associated with permanent vegetation removal may persist for the life of the Project. Restoration of temporary disturbances, maintenance of compatible vegetation within the ROW, and measures to reduce construction-related emissions are expected to reduce Project-related contributions to climate change. Although residual greenhouse gas emissions will remain, Project emissions are not anticipated to substantially contribute to climate change at a provincial or national	No – Residual effects are not anticipated to substantially contribute to climate change at a provincial scale. Residual effects are expected to be localized and not anticipated to substantially affect Métis citizens' ability to exercise Section 35 rights through the broader harvesting area.

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
	vegetation and reduced carbon sequestration capacity. These changes may affect seasonal environmental conditions, wildlife migration patterns, and seasonal activities of Métis citizens, such as ice fishing. These changes contribute to broader climate change impacts on a long term or ongoing basis. These effects inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.		Use fuel-efficient transportation approaches where practicable, including multi-passenger vehicles for personnel transport and electric or hybrid vehicles for operation and maintenance activities, where feasible.		scale. Métis citizens may nevertheless experience these changes through effects on wildlife, fish, plants, water resources, and seasonal activities that are interconnected with the broader environment.	
Travel	The Project is anticipated to have a moderate impact on Métis travel, defined as the ability to move freely in a culturally significant area. Project activities such new access roads may include temporary road restrictions, lane closures, and potentially cause traffic. Access could also be improved for harvesters through the creation of new roads; however, these roads may also increase traffic and use of the area over the long term. The Project may also affect existing trails (e.g., snow machine, ATV, snowshoe) and water-based routes and boat launches, which may result in year-round effects on travel. Privatization of roads around the Project was also a concern. Concerns were also raised regarding the ability to access the corridor and undertake harvesting activities during and after construction. These effects inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.	Moderate	Hydro One will: • Use existing access routes where feasible to limit disturbance. • Minimize disruption to established trails and travel routes during construction. • Implement temporary access restrictions only where required for safety. • Where feasible, provide alternate access routes or temporary rerouting to support travel during construction. • Provide advance notice of construction activities and any access limitations. • Restore disturbed access routes following construction. • Continue engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.	• Public Health and Safety (Section 7.4.4.1) • Access/Transportation (Section 7.4.1.1) • Fish and Fish Habitat (Section 7.7.7.2) • Recreational Trails and Routes (Section 7.8.1)	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on Métis travel are anticipated to be localized and temporary. Temporary disruptions to access routes, trails, and travel corridors may occur during construction, including temporary road restrictions, alternate routes, and changes to travel patterns within and adjacent to the Project footprint. Access is expected to be maintained or provided through alternate routes, and restored where feasible following construction. New or improved access associated with the Project may alter how Métis citizens travel through and access portions of the Project footprint and surrounding lands. While these changes are not anticipated to substantially affect the overall ability of Métis citizens to move throughout the broader harvesting area, some Métis harvesters may experience changes to preferred routes, access locations, water-based travel routes, and travel conditions used to support harvesting and other land-based activities. These effects are expected to be localized and primarily associated with the construction period and areas immediately adjacent to Project infrastructure; however, changes in access patterns associated with new or improved access routes may persist beyond construction.	No – Residual effects are expected to be localized within and adjacent to the Project footprint Access is expected to be maintained through alternate routes during construction and restored, where feasible, following construction. As a result, residual effects are not anticipated to substantially affect Métis citizens' ability to move freely in a culturally significant area.
Areas of Use and Occupation	The Project is anticipated to have a very significant impact on Métis citizens' areas of use and occupation, which include locations within the PSA and LSA identified through the TKLUS, including high-use areas. Effects will mainly occur during construction due to restricted access and the reduced amount of land available to Métis citizens. However, the Project may also change the ways Métis citizens connect to the land over the long term due to the permanent conversion of Crown land within the Project footprint and its associated changes to access and land use. Concerns also extended to the	Very Significant	• Minimize access restrictions during construction to reduce disruption to harvesting and cultural activities. • Access to PSA will be restored post construction. • Implement a Cultural Heritage Risk Management Plan. • In the event that previously undocumented cultural or heritage sites are identified during construction, Hydro One will provide notification to Métis communities and support meaningful community involvement in the management of	• Cultural Heritage (Section 7.3.2) • Access/Transportation (Section 7.4.1.1) • Surface Water/Water Quality (Section 7.7.3.2) • Spills (Section 7.7.4) • Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7) • Wildlife (Section 7.7.7.4)	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on Métis areas of use and occupation are anticipated. Temporary restrictions to access may occur during construction, although access is expected to be maintained or provided through alternate routes, and restored following construction where feasible. Permanent alteration of lands within the Project footprint and associated ROW may affect how Métis citizens use and occupy specific locations for harvesting, overnight stays, travel, and cultural activities. While Project effects are not anticipated to substantially reduce the overall availability of lands across the broader harvesting area, Métis citizens may experience changes in access to, use of, and preference for specific locations that support the exercise of Section 35 rights and cultural practices.	No – Residual effects are expected to be localized within and adjacent to the Project footprint. Although the Project may alter the use and occupation of specific locations, these effects are not anticipated to

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
	potential discovery of undocumented heritage sites during construction, and the need for formal notification, communication and meaningful involvement of Métis communities in the management of such discoveries. These effects inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.		such discoveries, consistent with applicable protocols and regulatory requirements. - Minimize disturbance to areas used for cultural activities - Implement vegetation, wildlife, and land restoration measures to support continued land use post construction. - Provide advance notice of construction activities and access restrictions to Métis communities. - Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.		Some harvesters may choose to shift activities to alternate locations due to changes in environmental conditions, resource availability, or perceptions regarding disturbance associated with Project infrastructure. These effects are expected to be most pronounced within and adjacent to the Project footprint and may influence ongoing connections to specific areas used for harvesting and cultural activities.	substantially affect the overall availability of lands used by Métis citizens throughout the broader harvesting area.
Trade	The Project is anticipated to have moderate effects on Métis citizens' ability to conduct trade. Construction may impact wildlife and plant habitat and populations, and change migration patterns, restrict access to harvesters, and increase access for other hunters. Métis citizens hunt together, share meat with Elders, and share food within the community, making country food important to their diet. Trade is closely connected to hunting, trapping, fishing, and the gathering of plants and natural materials, and project-related changes to these activities may result in a decline in trade. While some new areas may become accessible for harvesting, vegetation clearing and long-term changes to environmental conditions may affect the resources that support trade over time. Trapping and other harvesting activities may also provide an important source of income for some Métis citizens. Métis communities' concern includes potential contamination impacts from the Project on harvested plants and wildlife. These effects inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.	Moderate	- Restore access to harvesting areas post construction - Where feasible, provide alternate access routes or temporary rerouting to maintain travel during construction. - Reclaim disturbed areas and support habitat recovery post construction. - Implement vegetation, wildlife, and habitat protection measures to support availability of harvested resources. - Implementation of spill prevention and response measures to reduce contamination risks. - Minimize wildlife habitat and ground disturbance. - Consultation engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.	- Spills (Section 7.7.4) - Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7) - Fish and Fish Habitat (Section 7.7.7.2) - Wildlife (Section 7.7.7.4) - Access/Transportation (Section 7.4.1.1)	Net effects on Métis citizens' ability to conduct trade are expected to be limited and localized within or adjacent to the Project footprint. Temporary disruptions to access may occur during construction; however, access is expected to be maintained or provided through alternate routes, and restored following construction, where feasible. Localized changes in habitat and resource availability may occur; however, these effects are not expected to substantially affect the overall availability of harvested resources at the broader landscape scale, as these effects occur within or adjacent to Project footprint. These effects may influence harvesters, trappers, and community members who participate in the sharing and exchange of harvested resources, including country foods, and may affect income derived from harvesting activities.	No – Residual effects are expected to be localized within or adjacent to the Project footprint and are not anticipated to substantially affect Métis citizens' ability to conduct trade in culturally significant manner across the broader harvesting area.
Land Use Patterns	The Project is anticipated to have a significant impact on Métis citizens' ability to use traditional territory in a culturally significant manner. Land use patterns	Significant	Manage access restrictions to minimize disruption during construction.	- Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7) - Wildlife (Section 7.7.7.4)	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on Métis land use patterns are anticipated. Temporary disruptions to access and seasonal land-based activities may occur during construction, with	No – Residual effects are localized within or adjacent to

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
	centre around the seasonal round of Métis harvest activities. The Project may restrict access to and between preferred harvesting sites, alter wildlife migration patterns, reduce wildlife populations, increase access for hunters, and add pressure to wildlife due to the presence of workers. Overharvesting and ecological changes could be long term, and Métis citizens may be forced to find other harvesting areas. The overall effects of the Project on land use patterns inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.		• Maintain or restore access routes where feasible following construction • Reclaim temporary disturbed areas post construction • Implement vegetation, and habitat restoration measures to support continued land use • Implement erosion and sediment control, and spill prevention measures to reduce contamination concerns. • Where feasible, provide alternate access routes or temporary rerouting to maintain travel during construction. • Where feasible schedule construction activities to minimize disruption during key seasonal land use periods and comply with applicable fishing and wildlife timing restrictions. • Restrict Project activities to designated work areas and access routes to minimize disturbance to wildlife populations, habitats and harvesting resources. • Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.	• Surface Water/Water Quality (Section 7.7.3.2) • Spills (Section 7.7.4) • Recreational Trails and Routes (Section 7.8.1) • Access/Transportation (Section 7.4.1.1)	access expected to be restored following construction where feasible. Permanent changes to environmental conditions within the Project footprint, including vegetation removal, habitat alteration, and presence of the Project, may influence how and where Métis citizens undertake harvesting and other land-based activities. While these changes are not anticipated to substantially alter land use patterns across the broader harvesting area, Métis harvesters may experience localized changes in preferred harvesting locations, seasonal use patterns, travel routes, and access to resources. The presence of Project personnel and changes in access associated with the Project may contribute to concerns regarding increased pressure on wildlife and harvesting resources; however, mitigation measures are expected to reduce the potential for these effects. Overall, these net effects are expected to be concentrated within and adjacent to the Project footprint and may influence the continued use of specific areas for harvesting and cultural activities over time.	the Project footprint and are not expected to reduce Métis citizens' ability to use their traditional territory in a culturally significant manner.
Knowledge Transmission	The Project is anticipated to have a significant impact on Métis citizens' ability to conduct and share experiential and land-based knowledge and activities due to construction, restrictions to access, and other impacts in the Project's life cycle. This may directly hinder effective the transmission of experiential and land-based knowledge to future generations, which is fundamental to Métis identity, cultural practices and the ongoing exercise of Section 35 rights. The overall effects of the Project on knowledge transmission inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.	Significant	• Manage access restrictions during construction and restore access where feasible post construction • Minimize disturbance to lands and resources used for harvesting and cultural activities • Where feasible, schedule construction activities to minimize disruption during key seasonal periods • Implement vegetation, wildlife, and habitat protection measures to support continued land-based use. • Reclaim and restore disturbed areas post construction. • Provide advance notice of construction activities and access restrictions to Métis communities.	• Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7) • Wildlife (Section 7.7.7.4) • Access/Transportation (Section 7.4.1.1) • Fish and Aquatic Habitat (Section 7.7.7.2)	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on Métis knowledge transmission are anticipated. Temporary disruptions to access and land-based activities may occur during construction, with access expected to be restored following construction where feasible. Permanent changes to environmental conditions within the Project footprint may influence opportunities for harvesting, travel, and other land-based activities through which experiential and intergenerational knowledge is commonly shared. While these changes are not anticipated to substantially affect the ability of Métis citizens to transmit knowledge across the broader harvesting area, some Métis citizens may experience reduced opportunities to teach and learn in preferred locations or during specific seasonal activities. Changes to access, resource availability, and use of particular harvesting areas may influence how knowledge is shared between generations and may result in the use of	No – Residual effects are expected to be localized within and adjacent to the Project footprint. Access is expected to be restored following construction, where feasible, and opportunities for experiential and land-based knowledge transfer are expected to

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
			Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.		alternate locations to support the continuation of land-based learning and cultural practices.	remain available throughout the broader harvesting area.
Sense of Place	The Project is anticipated to have a very significant impact on Métis citizens' sense of place. Vegetation clearing, construction noise, and the presence of workers will change undisturbed Crown lands, affecting their sense of connection to place, as the lands and waters support personal well-being, a sense of calm and spirituality, and the practice of cultural activities. The Project may also improve access with a new travel corridor and access roads, enabling traditional activities and connection with the land. It may also attract additional harvesters. These changes would permanently alter the land that would be experienced on an ongoing basis, resulting in some Métis citizens changing their traditional practices or preferred locations. The overall effect of the Project on Métis sense of connection to place inhibits Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.	Very Significant	- Minimize vegetation clearing and retain existing vegetation where feasible to reduce changes to landscape character. - Manage access restrictions during construction through temporary rerouting, alternate routes, detours, signage, and communication, where feasible. - Implement construction best management practices to reduce noise and disturbance during construction. - Restore disturbed areas following construction to support recovery of natural landscape conditions. - Develop and implement a Cultural Heritage Risk Management Plan to address potential effects on culturally important landscapes. - Provide advance notice of construction activities to reduce disruption to cultural use of the land and experience of place. - Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.	- Cultural Heritage (Section 7.3.2) - Recreational Trails and Routes (Section 7.8.1) - Access/Transportation (Section 7.4.1.1) - Visual and Aesthetic Resources (Section 7.9) - Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7) - Noise and Vibration (Section 7.4.5)	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on Métis sense of place are anticipated. Permanent changes to the visual and environmental character of the landscape will occur within the Project footprint due to vegetation clearing, the presence of Project infrastructure, and ongoing ROW maintenance activities. While mitigation measures and site restoration may reduce the degree of change, Métis citizens may continue to experience changes in their connection to specific places used for harvesting, cultural activities, solitude, reflection, and spiritual practices. These places also support relationships with the land and provide opportunities for sharing knowledge, traditions, and land-based learning through shared cultural and harvesting activities. These changes may influence perceptions of the landscape and the continued use or enjoyment of preferred locations over time, including a preference for alternative locations that are less affected by Project-related disturbance. Although these effects are not anticipated to affect sense of place throughout the broader harvesting area, they may result in long-term changes to the experience and cultural value of specific locations within and adjacent to the Project footprint.	No – Residual effects are localized to areas within and adjacent to the Project footprint and, while they may influence the experience and cultural value of specific locations, are not anticipated to affect Métis citizens' sense of place throughout the broader harvesting area.
Practicing Cultural Activities	The Project is anticipated to have a significant impact on Métis citizens' ability to practice cultural activities. Cultural activities include harvesting, knowledge transmission, guiding, commercial fishing and trapping, ability to return to place, loss of experience or disruption to their connection to the lands and waters. Project activities may disrupt their access or use of areas where Métis practice	Significant	- Manage access restrictions during construction and restore access where feasible post construction. - Minimize disturbance to lands and resources used for cultural activities, where feasible. - Where and when feasible, schedule construction activities to minimize	- Access/Transportation (Section 7.4.1.1) - Natural Heritage Features (Section 7.7.7) - Fish and Fish Habitat (Section 7.7.7.2) - Wildlife (Section 7.7.7.4) - Spills (Section 7.7.4)	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on Métis citizens' ability to practice cultural activities are anticipated. Temporary disruptions to access and land-based activities may occur during construction, with access expected to be restored following construction where feasible. Permanent changes to environmental conditions within the Project footprint, including vegetation removal, habitat alteration, and the presence of Project infrastructure, may influence opportunities to undertake harvesting and other cultural	No – Residual effects are expected to be localized within and adjacent to the Project footprint. While temporary restrictions to the collective

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
	cultural activities and disrupt wildlife habitats and populations. These changes may result in Métis avoiding areas and may increase access for non-Indigenous hunters, which could contribute to the depletion of resources used for harvesting. Vegetation removal may affect culturally important resources, including chaga and birch trees which support traditional practices including canoe building. Changes and effects may be temporary or long-term and may occur during harvesting seasons or year-round. The Project may also increase access to preferred areas for Métis citizens. These effects inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.		disruption during key seasonal periods. - Implement vegetation, wildlife, and habitat protection measures to minimize disturbances to areas used for cultural practices. - Reclaim and restore disturbed areas post construction. - Implement erosion and sediment control and spill prevention measures to reduce environmental impacts. - Continued engagement with Métis communities throughout the Project life cycle to collaboratively identify, refine and implement mitigation measures, consistent with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy and the principles of FPIC.	- Visual and Aesthetic (Section 7.9) - Noise and Vibration (Section 7.4.5)	activities in preferred locations. While these changes are not anticipated to substantially affect the overall ability of Métis citizens to practice cultural activities throughout the broader harvesting area, some Métis citizens may experience changes in access to resources, culturally important plants and wildlife, and locations used for cultural activities. These locations may also support opportunities for knowledge sharing, cultural teaching, and maintaining connections to lands and waters that are important to Métis cultural practices. These changes may influence where and how certain cultural activities are practiced and may result in the use of alternative locations to support the continuation of cultural practices over time.	practice of cultural activities may occur during construction, these effects are not anticipated to substantially affect Métis citizens' ability to practice cultural activities in a culturally significant manner throughout the broader harvesting area.
Governance	The Project is anticipated to have a significant impact on Métis self-governance and the exercise of rights as a distinct Indigenous people, due to the Project's approach to consultation and accommodation, which led to concerns and perceptions of unequal treatment relative to other Indigenous communities. This may lead to increased tension and conflict within the Métis communities and potentially with other Indigenous communities through the Project's life cycle and future developments. The Project may also contribute to ongoing concerns regarding the reduction of lands and resources available within Métis harvesting areas, which may affect the Métis Community's ability to fulfill governance, stewardship, and management responsibilities related to traditional territory. These effects may inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights. In addition, MNO expressed concern that Project-related use of Crown lands could affect future settlement options associated with the River Lots Claim; however, this	Significant	Hydro One will: - Continue to engage with Métis communities through established governance structures, including Regional Consultation Committees; - Work with Métis communities to identify opportunities to avoid, reduce, or manage Project effects on lands, resources, and harvesting activities, where feasible; - Provide ongoing opportunities for meaningful participation in Project planning or life cycle; - Consider and integrate Métis knowledge, values, concerns, and stewardship objectives into Project planning, assessment, and implementation, where feasible; and - Document and respond to community feedback, including incorporating input into Project design and mitigation, where feasible.	Linked biophysical VC's are not applicable.	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on Métis governance are anticipated to be limited. Métis communities will continue to have opportunities to participate in Project-related consultation, review Project information, and provide input throughout the Project lifecycle. Despite these measures, some Métis citizens and representatives may continue to have concerns regarding consultation and accommodation processes, including perceptions of unequal treatment relative to other Indigenous communities. The Project may also contribute to ongoing concerns regarding Métis participation in decisions affecting lands and resources within traditional territory, including Métis participation in the management of Project-related effects on harvesting areas. While these effects are not anticipated to substantially limit the ability of Métis governance structures to represent their citizens or participate in Project-related decision-making, they may influence perceptions regarding recognition of Métis rights, interests, and governance responsibilities.	No – Governance is supported through ongoing engagement, consultation, and capacity funding, with continued opportunities for Métis communities to participate in Project-related decision-making processes. While concerns regarding consultation, accommodation, and participation may persist, the Project is not anticipated to substantially limit the ability of Métis governance structures to represent their citizens and

MNO VC	Potential Impact on Métis Communities' Ability to Exercise Section 35 Rights Identified in the MNO TKLUS	Severity Identified by MNO	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Linked Biophysical Components	Potential Net Effects to Section 35 Rights	Carried Forward to Cumulative Effects?
	potential effect could not be assessed based on available information ¹ .					future generations.
Management and Stewardship	The Project is anticipated to have a significant impact on Métis management and stewardship. The Project may alter plant and wildlife populations, remove or affect resources, and limit access to areas used by Métis citizens for stewardship activities. These changes may affect the Métis communities' ability to care for, preserve, monitor, and manage lands, waters and resources within their traditional territory. MNO citizens have expressed a desire for direct involvement in monitoring, stewardship and management of Project effects on plants, wildlife, and habitats. These effects may inhibit Métis communities' ability to exercise Section 35 rights.	Significant	Hydro One will: • Provide ongoing opportunities for Métis communities to meaningfully participate in Project-related monitoring, adaptive management and field programs (such as vegetation management during operation and maintenance phase); • Consider and integrate Métis knowledge, values, and land use information into Project planning, design, and implementation, where provided; • Communicate Project activities and schedules to support ongoing awareness of changes on the land; and • Provide advance notice of construction activities to support Métis participation in stewardship activities and monitoring.	Linked biophysical VC's are not directly applicable (see VCs on gathering plants and natural materials; hunting and trapping wildlife; fishing; and water, watersheds, rivers and streams.)	Following implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on Métis management and stewardship are anticipated to be limited and localized. Permanent changes to environmental conditions within the Project footprint, including vegetation removal, habitat alteration, and changes in resource use patterns, may influence Métis citizens' ability to carry out stewardship and management activities in specific locations. Opportunities for Métis participation in monitoring, environmental programs, and incorporation of Métis knowledge into Project implementation are expected to support continued stewardship involvement throughout the Project lifecycle. While localized changes to access, environmental conditions, and resource availability may affect stewardship activities within and adjacent to the Project footprint, these effects are not anticipated to substantially limit the ability of Métis communities to manage, steward, and maintain their traditional territories in accordance with their knowledge, practices, and values.	No – Ongoing engagement and participation in monitoring and adaptive management, with impacts localized to the Project footprint, are not expected to substantially limit the ability of Métis communities to manage, steward, and maintain their traditional territories in accordance with their knowledge, practices, and values.

¹ MNO identified a potential governance-related concern associated with the outstanding River Lots Claim in the TKLUS. However, the TKLUS did not identify a direct spatial relationship between the Project footprint and lands that may be considered as part of any future settlement. Accordingly, the assessment could not establish a direct spatial linkage between the Project and potential future settlement lands. The concern is based on assumptions regarding future claim-resolution processes and does not imply any determination regarding the validity, scope, or eventual settlement of the claim.