



Waasigan Transmission Line Project

Biodiversity Initiative

Purpose of the Biodiversity Initiative

Hydro One plays a vital role in energizing life in northwest Ontario. As we build new infrastructure to support the energy needs of the region, we are guided by our objective to manage our project activities in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. As part of the Waasigan Transmission Line Project, Hydro One will fund biodiversity-focused projects through the Biodiversity Initiative to offset net habitat loss from the new transmission line.

Biodiversity Initiative Proposal Intent

Hydro One is putting out an invitation for Proposal submissions. This is an opportunity for interested parties to submit proposals for Biodiversity Initiatives and receive funding for these initiatives from Hydro One. Opportunities located in close proximity to the Waasigan Transmission Line project, and that are proposed to be undertaken under the direction of, or with the participation of, local Indigenous community members will be prioritized.

The minimum requirements/criteria for the Proposal submissions are as follows:

- Must involve one or more of the following: creation or enhancement of habitat (area-based or feature-based), reduction of threats to biodiversity, and/or addressing environmental concerns related to biodiversity identified by local Indigenous Communities.
- Must be feasible to conduct under budget provided, sustainable to manage long-term, and appropriate for site conditions.
- Costing must be complete and reasonable (i.e., funding request must accurately reflect the anticipated cost of the implementation of the Proposal).
 - Funding request should not exceed \$250,000 and should be no less than \$20,000.

Opportunities will be evaluated and ranked based on:

- Ecological value
- Value to local Indigenous Communities



- Proximity to the project
- Value-add (non-ecological) factors

The evaluation criteria described above are intended to guide the review process; however, Hydro One reserves the right to select, decline, or otherwise determine the eligibility of any proposal at its sole discretion. Submission of a proposal does not guarantee selection or funding.

Project Partners

Interested parties who wish to discuss proposal priorities or explore partnerships with project partners should contact the appropriate first point of contact listed in the table below

Project Partner	Contact Information
Eagle Lake First Nation	Alison Fraser Alison.Fraser@encompassenvironmental.ca
Fort William First Nation	
Seine River First Nation	
Nigigoonsiminkaning First Nation	
Gakijiwanong Anishinaabe Nation (Lac La Croix First Nation)	
Lac Seul First Nation	
Ojibway Nation of Saugeen	
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	Annie Dietrich Annie.dietrich@ganawendanaki.com
Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation	David Mackett dmackett@lacdesmillelacs.ca

Biodiversity Initiative Proposal Submission Information

A Proposal Submission form is to be submitted. The Proposal Submission template can be found within this document, beginning on page four (4), as well as on the project website, HydroOne.com/Waasigan.

All submissions are to be sent via email to Community Relations at Community.Relations@HydroOne.com.



The open call for Proposal submissions will begin on July 10, 2026.

The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday, September 30, 2026**. Successful submissions will be announced in early 2027.





Waasigan Transmission Line Project

Biodiversity Initiative Proposal

Submitted By

Person/Organization:	
Contact:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Address:	

Screening Criteria

Biodiversity Initiative Proposals must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Must involve one or more of the following: creation or enhancement of habitat (area-based or feature-based), reduction of threats to biodiversity, and/or addressing environmental concerns related to biodiversity identified by local Indigenous Communities.
2. must be feasible to conduct under budget provided, sustainable over the long term and appropriate for site conditions.
3. Costing must be complete and reasonable (i.e., funding request must accurately reflect the anticipated cost of the implementation of the Proposal).
4. Funding request should not exceed \$250,000 and should be no less than \$20,000.

Please provide the Proposal details in the fields below, each field has a 2000-character maximum. Additional information on proposal costing or consultation records may be appended to the Proposal submission as needed.





Proposed Opportunity General Description

Please provide a brief general description of the proposed biodiversity project opportunity¹:

¹A detailed description of the proposed opportunity to be provided in separate fields below.

1. Proposed Opportunity Ecological Information

Refer to Section 1.1 for opportunities related to the creation of feature-based habitat, the reduction of threats to biodiversity, or that address environmental concerns related to biodiversity identified by local Indigenous Communities.

Refer to Section 1.2 for area-based habitat creation and enhancement opportunities.

1.1 Opportunities Related to the Creation of Feature-based Habitat, the Reduction of Threats to Biodiversity, or that Address other Environmental Concerns Related to Biodiversity Identified by Local Indigenous Communities

Does the opportunity have the potential to create feature-based species at risk habitat? (Y / N)

If yes, provide description below:

Does the opportunity have the potential to create feature-based Significant Wildlife Habitat in accordance with the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W¹ (2017)? (Y / N)

If yes, provide description below:

¹The closest ecoregion to the Waasigan Transmission Line for which Criteria Schedules have been prepared.



For opportunities proposed to address environmental concerns related to biodiversity identified by local Indigenous Communities, provide the context of the concern, when and how it was identified, and identify the individuals and/or community that raised this concern (i.e., who identified the environmental concern and how has the concern been communicated):

For opportunities proposed to address environmental concerns related to biodiversity identified by local Indigenous Communities, provide the rationale for how this opportunity will address the locally identified concern:

1.2 Area-based Habitat Creation and Enhancement Opportunities (i.e., plant community creation or enhancement)

For area-based habitat creation and habitat enhancement opportunities, provide a detailed description of relevant ecological information including the size, the proposed plant community, diversity of plant communities, proportion of plant communities, and habitat enhancements. Provide a list of dominant and other plant species:

Does the opportunity occur on or expand a designated natural area? (Y / N)

If yes, provide description below:



Does the opportunity have the potential to create new species at risk habitat? (Y / N)

If yes, provide description below:

Does the opportunity have the potential to create new Significant Wildlife Habitat in accordance with the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W¹ (2017)? (Y / N)

If yes, provide description below:

¹The closest ecoregion to the Waasigan Transmission Line for which Criteria Schedules have been prepared.

Does the opportunity have the potential to create new area-based habitat for species of cultural or economic significance to local Indigenous Communities? (Y / N)

If yes, provide description below. For submissions from non-Indigenous parties please include a rationale/documentation of the cultural or economic significance of the species (i.e., engagement details):

2. Existing Land Use

If applicable, describe the existing land use/habitat type at the location of the proposed opportunity.





Describe the known land use history at the location of the proposed opportunity.

3. Non-ecological Factors

3.1 Location and Land Ownership

Approximate distance of opportunity from the Waasigan Transmission Line Project corridor:

Please include a map showing the location of the proposed opportunity relative to the Waasigan Transmission Line Project corridor.

Please describe the ownership of the lands:

Is the opportunity located on the reserve lands of a local Indigenous Community (Y/N):

If yes, please identify the Community.

Explain how the opportunity will provide long-term benefits to biodiversity (i.e., sustainability of the opportunity):



3.2 Value to Local Indigenous Communities

Is the Opportunity led by a local Indigenous group or does the opportunity include participating Indigenous partners? (Y / N)

If yes, please include participating Indigenous partners:

Have local Indigenous Communities been engaged on the opportunity? (Y / N)

If yes, please identify which communities and provide a description of the engagement actions or submit formal endorsement documentation (i.e., is the proposal supported by a Band Council Resolution or letter of support):

Will the opportunity contribute to the conservation priorities of local Indigenous communities? (Y / N)

If yes, please provide a description detailing the context of the conservation priority (i.e., when and how it was identified, and identify the individuals and/or community that identified the conservation priority). For submissions from non-Indigenous parties, please include documentation of the engagement details on the conservation priority:

Will the opportunity contribute to the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of local Indigenous communities? (Y / N)

If yes, please provide a description. For submissions from non-Indigenous parties, please include documentation of the engagement details on the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing benefits of the proposal:

3.3 Value to the General Public

Will the opportunity provide public recreational benefits? (Y / N)

If yes, please provide a brief description:

Will the opportunity provide educational opportunities? (Y / N)

If yes, please provide a brief description:

Will the opportunity provide research opportunities or provide benefits to filling scientific knowledge gaps? (Y / N)

If yes, please provide a brief description:

Does the opportunity include multiple participating partners? (Y / N)

If yes, please include participating partners:

3.4 Climate Change Considerations

Will the opportunity support efforts to enhance resilience against climate change? (Y / N)

If yes, please provide a brief description:

4. Execution Plan

Please provide a detailed breakdown on the Opportunity timeline:

Please provide a list of the required materials, equipment, and labour/resources required for the implementation of the proposed Opportunity:

5. Funding

Are other sources of funding available, and if so, could they be leveraged as a result of Hydro One's funding? (Y / N)

If yes, please provide details below:

Please attach your opportunity estimated cost broken down by time, task and materials. Estimated costs should be further broken down to reflect the various annual phases/tasks. ¹

For habitat-based proposals, the opportunity costs should include budget for 2027 site preparation and planting budget, funds for monitoring and tending work beginning in 2028 and extending into future years if deemed necessary, etc. Please ensure the budget accounts for getting the target habitat/feature adequately established to ensure habitat success and long-term sustainability.¹

¹ All information prepared as part of an opportunity submission (e.g., maps, plans, budget) will be publicly shared as part of the Biodiversity Initiative documentation and reporting.



6. Summary

Below, please summarize the key advantages of the opportunity and its compatibility with general biodiversity principles and the Biodiversity Initiative objectives:

