

A graphic of a transmission line tower and its supporting structure, rendered in white lines against a dark blue background. The lines form a complex geometric pattern of triangles and rectangles.

**WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE
POWERING NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**



OVERVIEW

- Provide an update on the Waasigan Transmission Line project.
- Discuss Hydro One's forthcoming Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Outline what we have heard through consultation and engagement to date.
- Continue to gather your input on the refined route selection study area through discussions and comment.

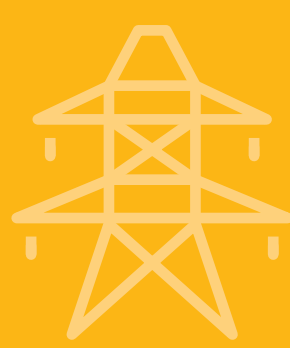




THE WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

The Waasigan Transmission Line is a proposed new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kV line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden.

Waasigan is an Ojibwe word for “bringing power”.

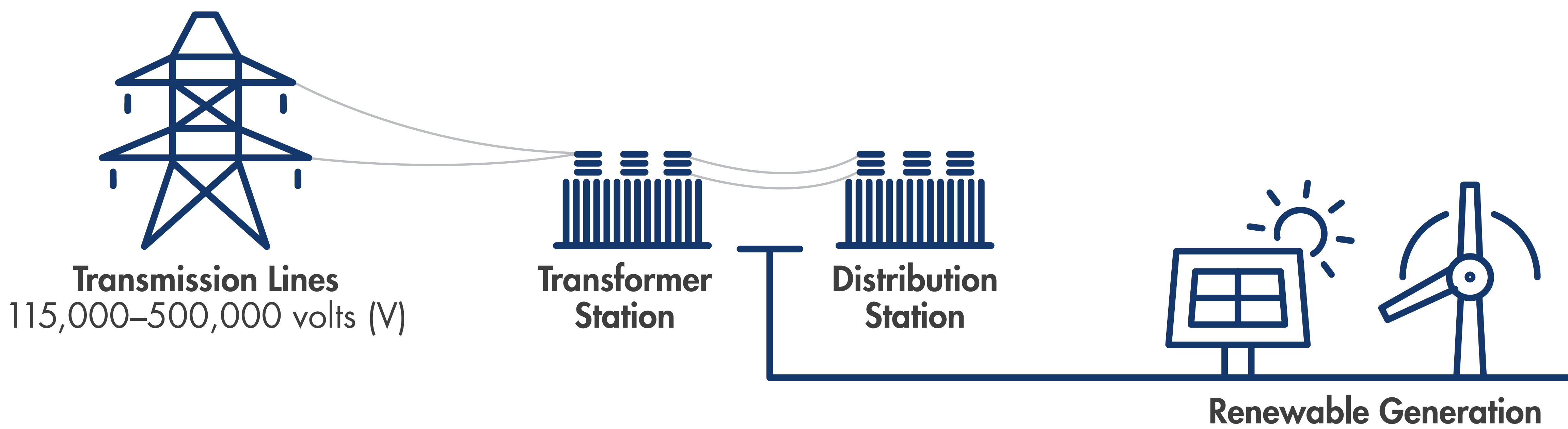


HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

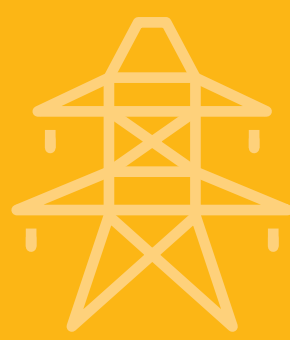
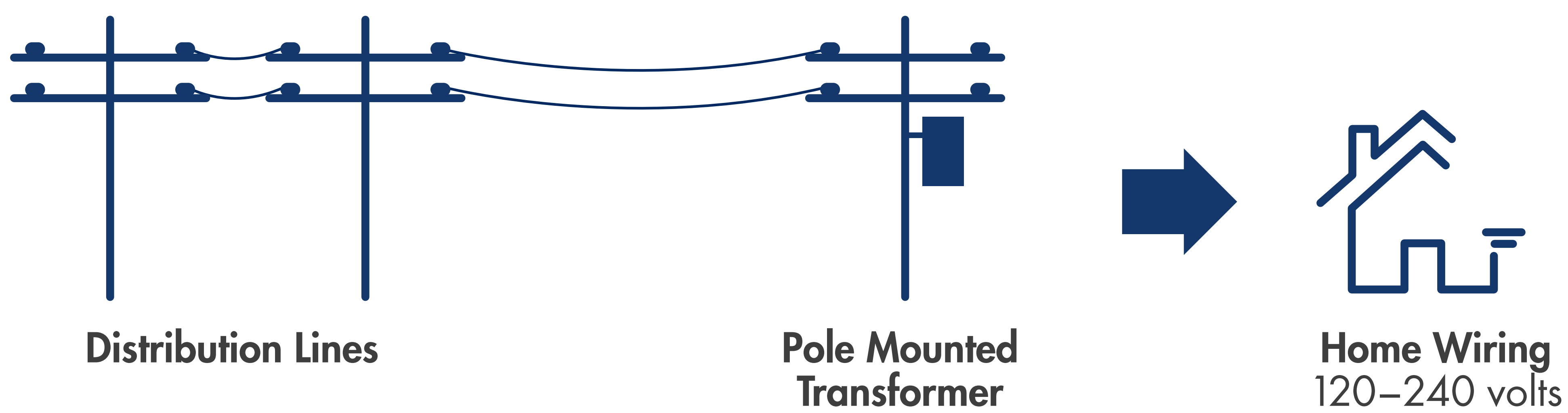
ONTARIO POWER GENERATION AND PRIVATE GENERATION COMPANIES



HYDRO ONE OR LICENSED TRANSMITTER



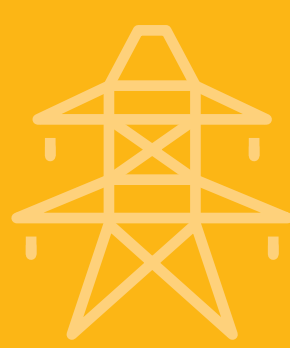
HYDRO ONE OR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION COMPANY





HISTORY OF THE WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

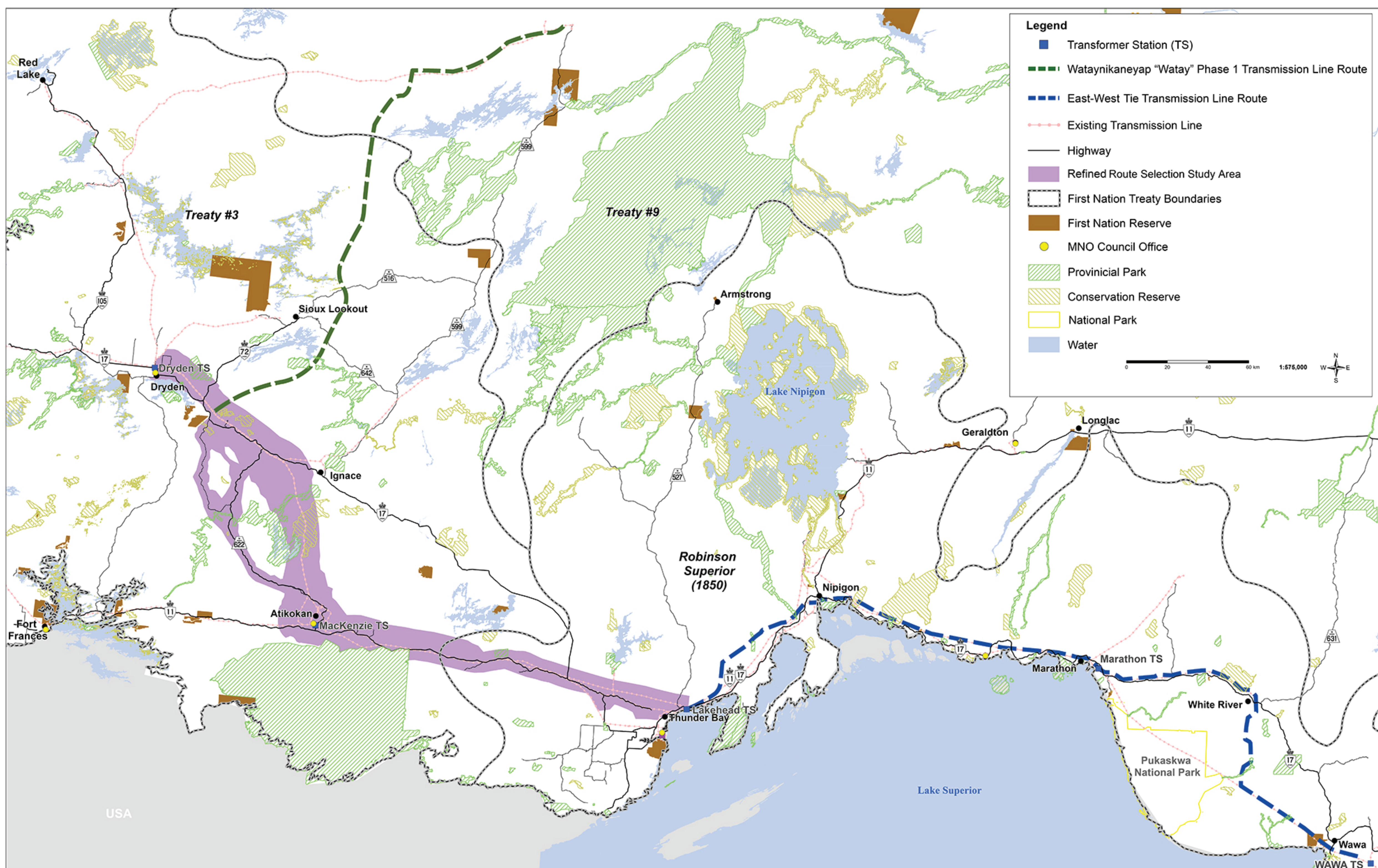
- Hydro One has been powering homes and businesses in northwestern Ontario for more than 70 years.
- The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has requested that Hydro One begin the development work for a proposed transmission line, including the Environmental Assessment (EA), in order to provide additional electricity capacity in the future.
- The project is formerly known as the Northwest Bulk Transmission Line and has been renamed the Waasigan Transmission Line by Hydro One.
- The proposed project will increase the power transfer capability to 350 MW from Thunder Bay to Dryden, via Atikokan.
- Building the Waasigan Transmission Line will create opportunities for training and stimulate growth for local businesses and industry by bringing increased capacity to meet anticipated demand.



OVERVIEW OF TRANSMISSION IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

- Readily available capacity will strengthen the momentum of mine development activity in northwestern Ontario, and support additional infrastructure projects in the region.
- Hydro One must plan now to meet the future needs of the region, as infrastructure takes time to plan.

The Waasigan Transmission Line is a critical link in the expansion of the transmission network in northwest.





THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Environmental Assessment (EA) will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The EA consists of two main components:

STEP 1

The Terms of Reference (ToR)

- Once prepared, the ToR will establish the framework for studies and consultation activities, and identify the alternative routes which will be further assessed in the EA.
- The ToR will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for review and decision.

STEP 2

The Environmental Assessment (EA)

- The EA will proceed as outlined in the approved ToR.
- The EA will assess and evaluate alternative routes and determine a preferred route for the new transmission line.
- The EA will identify other required project components, assess effects of the proposed project, and describe mitigation and other impact management measures to avoid or minimize impacts to the environment.

Opportunities for input

Please see the **Terms of Reference and Environmental Assessment Overviews** for further detail.





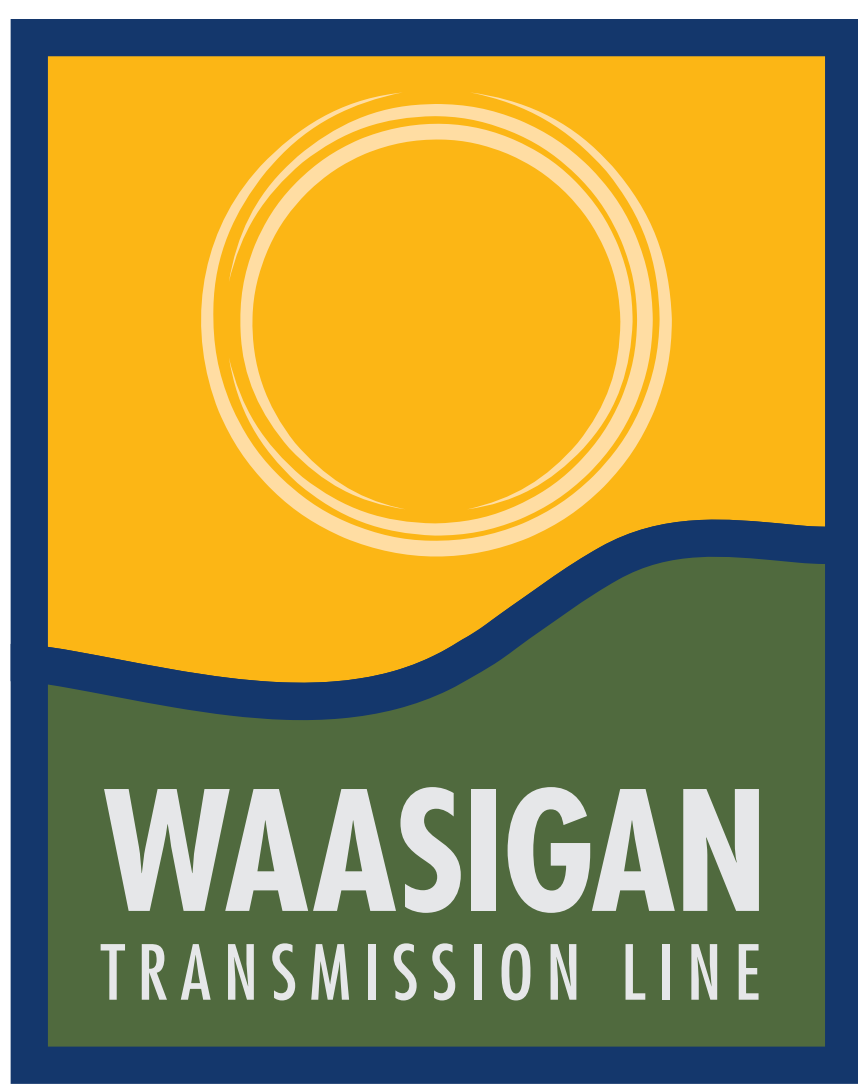
DEVELOPMENT WORK TIMELINES

Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference	April 24, 2019
Consultation, data collection, and development of corridor alternatives	Spring 2019 – Spring 2020
Draft Terms of Reference for review	Mid 2020
Proposed Terms of Reference submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Fall 2020
Terms of Reference approved by Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	December 2020/ January 2021
Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment	January 2021
Consultation and data collection on Environmental Assessment study areas	2021 - 2022
Draft Environmental Assessment review	2022
Leave to Construct (Section 92) application submission *	2022
Decision on Environmental Assessment by Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	2023/2024
Leave to Construct (Section 92) application approval	2023/2024
Complete development work	By end of 2024



*Leave to Construct under Section 92 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* is a regulatory process to obtain approval from the OEB to build and operate a transmission line. Hydro One will not apply for this approval until direction is received by the IESO to proceed with the project.





WHERE WE ARE TO DATE

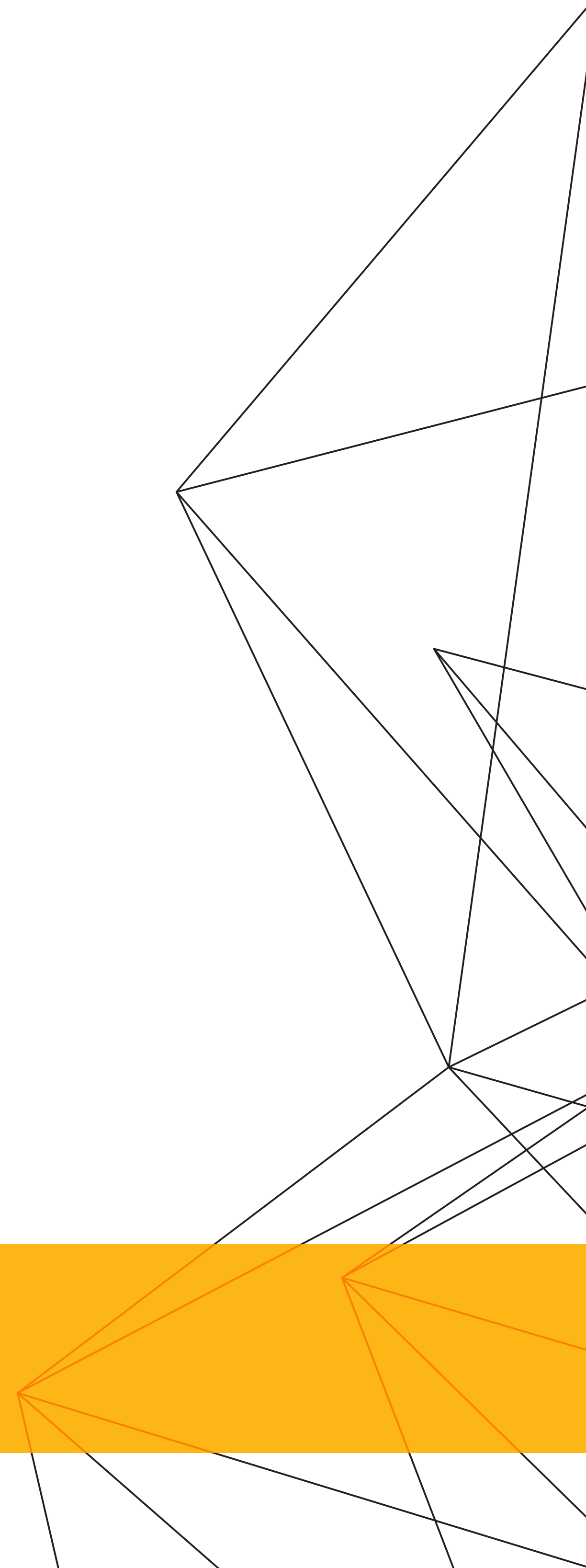
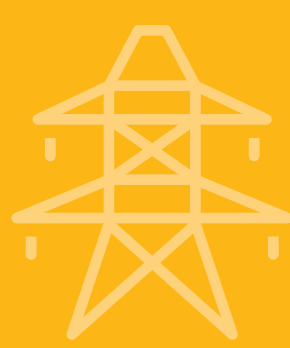
Public input is collected and considered on an ongoing basis during community engagement activities.

SINCE APRIL 2019 OUR TEAM HAS:

- Hosted the first round of Community Information Centres.
- Facilitated corridor workshops with government agencies, non-government organizations and Indigenous communities.
- Presented to all municipal councils and interested organizations in the study area.
- Continued to engage and schedule workshops with Indigenous communities.

WHAT WE HAVE HEARD:

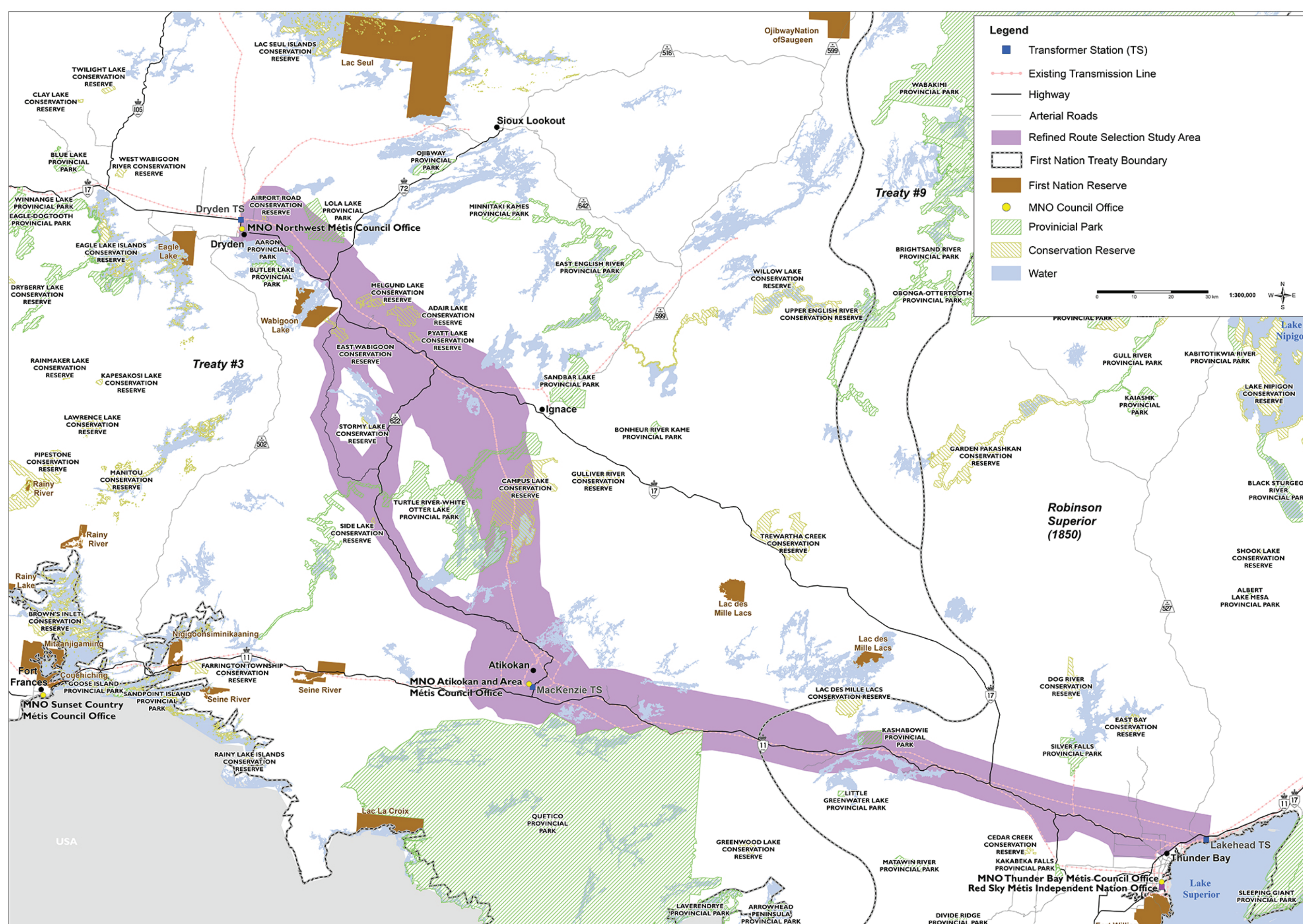
- How will the project contribute to local economic development?
- Can existing rights-of-way be used instead of a new corridor?
- How will my property be impacted?
- What impacts will there be to hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, outfitting, and mining activity?





REFINED ROUTE SELECTION STUDY AREA

- The Refined Route Selection Study Area has been developed with the information gathered to date, through workshop processes held with government agencies, non-government organizations and Indigenous communities.
- This study area represents the lands that are considered to be more suitable for a new transmission line.
- Alternative routes will be identified within the Refined Route Selection Study Area giving consideration to environmental, technical (e.g., length), socio-economic and Indigenous inputs.
- Public input will be factored into the development of the alternatives routes.
- Alternative routes will be identified in the Draft Terms of Reference for review and comment.



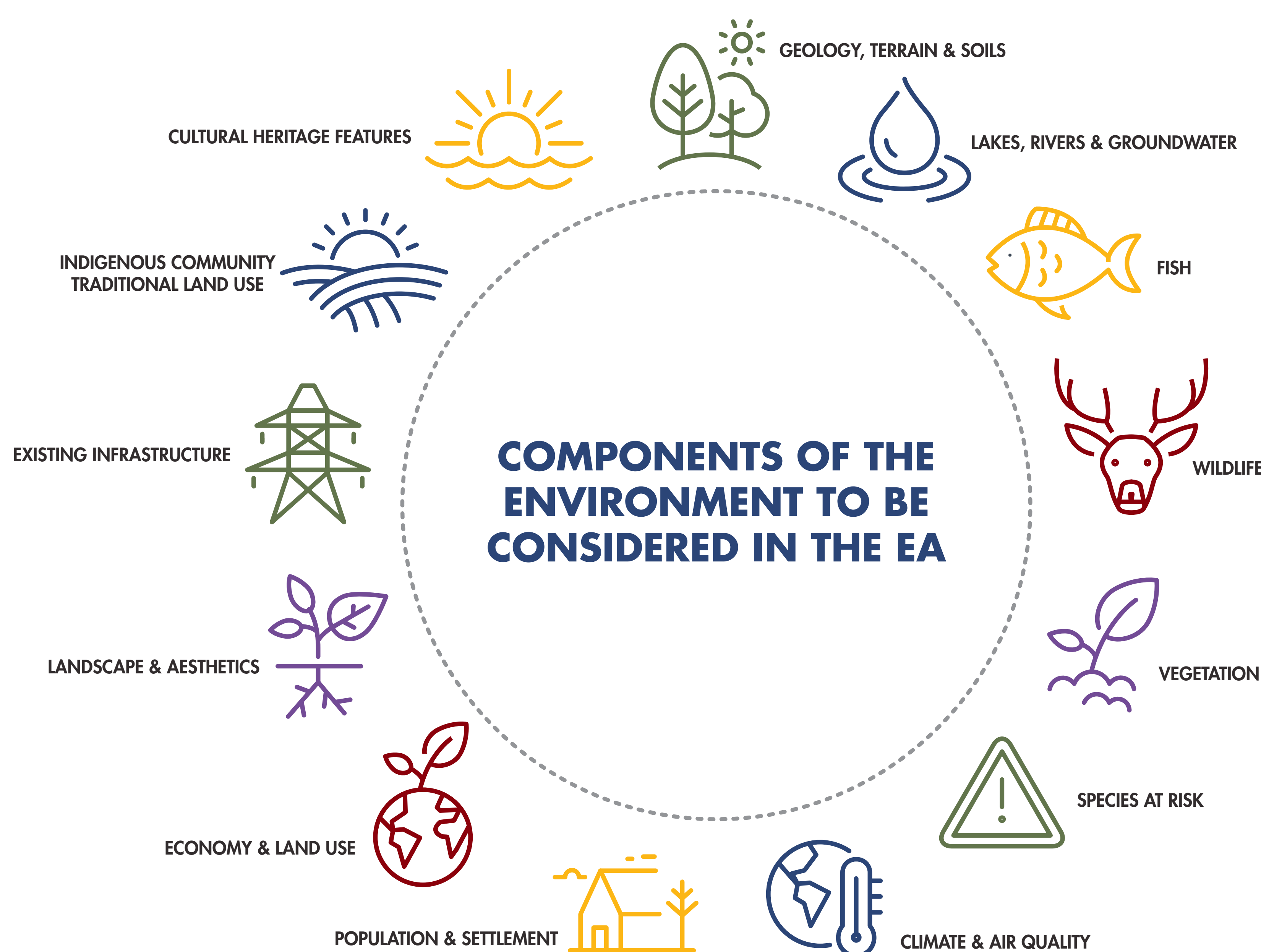
Refined route selection study area



WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Draft ToR will outline how the EA will be conducted, and will include:

- Project and EA purpose and detail
- Regulatory and approvals requirements
- Route alternatives and how they will be evaluated
- Engagement plans for the EA
- Commitments and monitoring
- Descriptions of existing environment (see below)
- How the project effects will be assessed during the EA, including a draft list of criteria and indicators



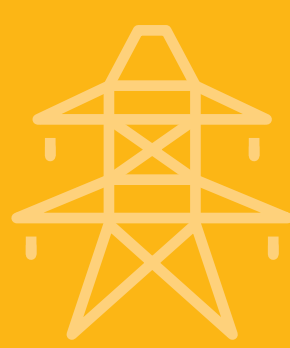


HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE PROCESS

- We want to ensure that feedback from community members, Indigenous communities, property owners, government and elected officials, and the business community is built into our project.
- Hydro One encourages comments throughout the project, including during the ToR development.
- The Draft ToR document will be released for 45-day review and comment period.
- Hydro One will distribute notices regarding the Draft ToR availability and review timelines.
- The Draft ToR will be available for download on the project website. Depending on the public health situation, hard copies may be made available for viewing at central locations.
- Currently, the Draft ToR is scheduled to be released in mid-2020.

Do you want to stay up to date and involved in the Draft ToR process?

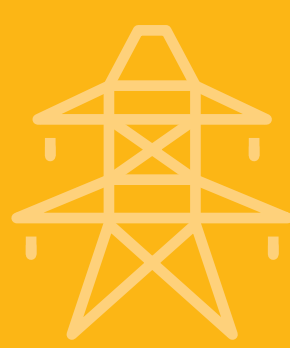
[Click here to sign up for the project contact list.](#)





WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

- Development work for the Waasigan Transmission Line is founded on open, respectful and collaborative consultation with communities.
- Hydro One is committed to ongoing consultation with Indigenous communities throughout the project.
- Hydro One's Indigenous engagement process is designed to provide relevant project information to Indigenous communities in a timely manner.
- The process enables Indigenous communities to review, consider and raise issues, concerns and questions they may have with the project.
- Hydro One is initiating a training program to develop skills and capacity in local Indigenous communities in support of the Waasigan EA, with the intent that the skills gained may be applied to future projects of a similar nature.
- The training program will be offered to members of Indigenous communities who are likely to be involved in the EA process or have expressed an interest in participating.

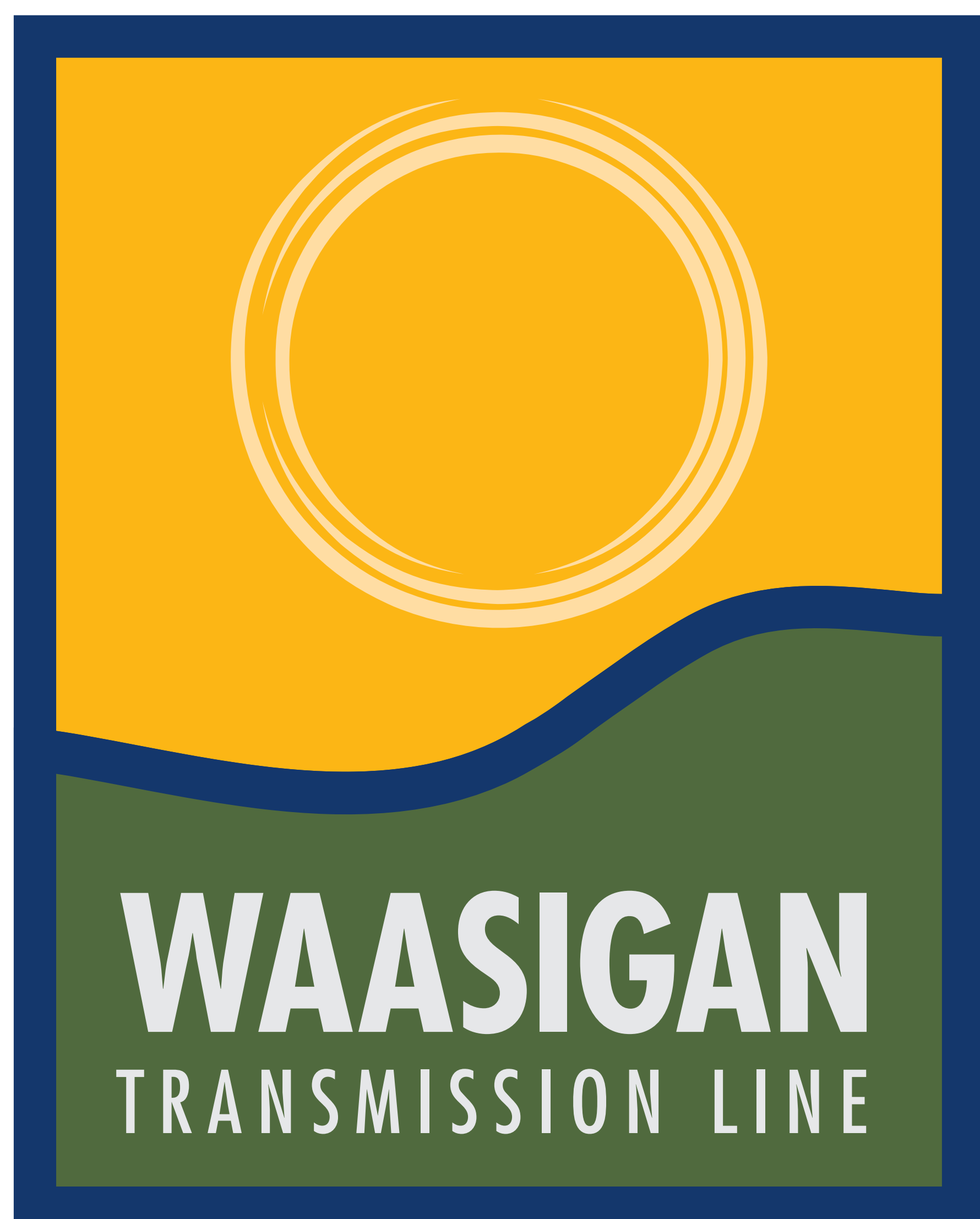




BEING A COMMUNITY PARTNER

- Consultation and community engagement is a top priority for Hydro One, including identifying ways in which Hydro One and the project can support your community.
- We are always looking for ways to strengthen our partnerships. Visit [HydroOne.com/BuildingSafeCommunities](https://www.hydroone.com/buildingsafecommunities) for more information on our past and current partnerships, and learn more about future opportunities.
- We are also committed to developing broader local training and labour opportunities for when the project itself is given a green light.
- Hydro One wants to build long term job skills capacity in the region.
- We understand the potential that exists in northwestern Ontario, and believe in supporting growth in the region.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT

Your input is important to us, so please share your feedback!

To provide comments or to be added to the project contact list, please visit the project website, call 1-877-345-6799 or email Community.Relations@HydroOne.com.

For the most up-to-date project information and project updates visit our project website HydroOne.com/Waasigan



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