

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Record of Consultation

November 2023

# Table of Contents

---

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1.1-1</b>
1.1	Purpose of this Report .....	1.1-1
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Stakeholder Engagement.....</b>	<b>1.1-5</b>
2.1	Stakeholder Identification.....	2.1-5
2.2	Engagement Activities .....	2.2-9
2.2.1	Project Notifications .....	2.2-11
2.2.2	Field Program Notifications .....	2.2-13
2.2.3	Community Open Houses .....	2.2-13
2.2.4	Working Groups and Landowners Meetings.....	2.2-17
2.3	Stakeholder Engagement Summary .....	2.3-17
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Indigenous Engagement .....</b>	<b>2.3-22</b>
3.1	Identification of Indigenous Communities.....	3.1-22
3.2	Engagement Activities .....	3.2-24
3.2.1	Memorandum of Understanding and Consultation Plan .....	3.2-24
3.2.2	Indigenous Knowledge Studies and Capacity Funding.....	3.2-25
3.2.3	Document Review.....	3.2-26
3.2.4	Field Program Notification .....	3.2-27
3.2.5	Field Program Participation .....	3.2-27
3.2.6	Community Open Houses .....	3.2-28
3.3	Indigenous Community Engagement Summary .....	3.3-30
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Ongoing Engagement.....</b>	<b>3.3-37</b>

## Tables

---

Table 2.2-1:	First Round of Community Open Houses.....	2.2-14
Table 2.2-2:	Second Round of Community Open Houses.....	2.2-15
Table 2.2-3:	Third Round of Community Open Houses.....	2.2-16
Table 2.3-1:	Stakeholder Engagement Records and Support Documents.....	2.3-20
Table 3.2-1:	Indigenous Community Open Houses.....	3.2-28
Table 3.3-1:	Indigenous Community Engagement Records and Support Documents .	3.3-32



## Figures

---

Figure 1.1-1:	Project Location .....	1.1-4
Figure 2.2-1:	EA Engagement Activities .....	2.2-10

## Appendices

---

### APPENDIX A

Stakeholder Contact List

### APPENDIX B

Project Notifications and Updates Supporting Documents

### APPENDIX C

Field Program Notifications

### APPENDIX D

Open House Supporting Documents

### APPENDIX E

Municipal Record of Consultation Supporting Documents

### APPENDIX F

Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation Supporting Documents

### APPENDIX G

Businesses, Interest Groups and Community Members Record of Consultation Supporting Documents

### APPENDIX H

Indigenous Community and Organization Contact List (pending review by Indigenous communities)

### APPENDIX I

Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents (pending review by Indigenous communities)



## Abbreviations

---

CEC	Community Engagement Coordinators
CEDC	Community Economic Development Commission
CFA	Capacity Funding Agreement
CMO	Chi Mino Ozhitowin
CNR	Canadian National Railway
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railway
CUSW	Canadian Union of Skilled Workers
EA	environmental assessment
EAA	<i>Environmental Assessment Act, 1990</i>
ECI	Early Contractor Involvement
ENDM	Ministry of Energy, Northern Development, and Mines
GLP	Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership
GRT	Government Review Team
Hydro One	Hydro One Networks Inc.
km	kilometre
kV	kilovolt
LiUNA	Laborers' International Union of North America
m	metres
MECP	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
MNDM	Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
MNRF	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
NDMNRF	Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry
NOMA	Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
NWOMC	Northwestern Ontario Métis Community
NWOPA	Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association
ROW	right-of-way
ToR	Terms of Reference



# 1.0 Introduction

---

This Record of Consultation provides records and materials supporting consultation and engagement activities conducted by Hydro One between March 9, 2022 to September 1, 2023, in support of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Waasigan Transmission Line (the Project). The Project includes the construction, operation and maintenance of a double-circuit 230 kV transmission line from Thunder Bay to Atikokan and a single-circuit 230 kV transmission line from Atikokan to Dryden (refer to Figure 1.1-1). For further details on the Project description, please see the Final EA Report. This record supports the summary of consultation and engagement activities in **Section 4.0** of the Final EA Report. Within this Record of Consultation, **Section 1.0** provides an overview of the Project and of this document.

**Section 2.0** provides an overview of records associated with engagement activities undertaken with stakeholders, including members of the public, municipalities, and government agencies, businesses, interest groups, community groups and residents through development of the Final EA Report. **Section 3.0** provides an overview of engagement activities and communications with Indigenous communities and organizations through development of the Final EA Report.

The descriptions in **Section 2.0** and **Section 3.0** are supported by appendices, including two contact lists (**Appendix A** containing the Stakeholder Contact List and **Appendix H** containing the Indigenous Communities Contact List), as well as records of consultation and supporting materials for contacted groups and individuals. Supporting information is included where it represents a notification required as part of the Project, where it defines a required action under the EA process (e.g., to share a document and associated review period), where documents were exchanged to provide Project information related to EA activities (e.g., presentations, reviewed and accepted meeting minutes), and where comments were received. This includes receipt of comments on the Draft EA Report. Copies of comments received on the Draft EA Report along with responses from Hydro One are in Appendix 4.0-A of the Final EA Report.

**Section 4.0** shares Hydro One's commitment to ongoing engagement throughout the Project.

## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

---

This document responds to Section 10.3 of the Amended Terms of Reference (Hydro One 2021) for the Project that the EA Report will be accompanied by a Record of Consultation which documents all consultation and engagement events, including community open houses, meetings and conference calls, incoming and outgoing communication. As well, this document provides reference to the comments received and, if applicable, Project team responses and how the comment was considered in the EA.

The Stakeholder Consultation Plan provided in Section 10.2 of the Amended ToR focuses on consultation and engagement activities related to potentially interested and/or affected



government officials and agencies, and other interested persons and organizations, including members of the public and property owners, with the objective to:

- Create an understanding and general awareness of the Project, and provide ongoing online and in-person opportunities for interested parties to learn about the Project, ask questions and provide feedback;
- Gather input and respond to inquiries or concerns, and provide full and fair consideration and documentation of the input received during the consultation process and incorporation of such input, where feasible, into Project decision-making;
- Learn about community interests and perspectives; and
- Better understand how the Project may affect stakeholders so that potential effects can be addressed and minimized, as feasible.

The Indigenous Engagement Plan provided in Section 10.4 of the Amended ToR focuses on engagement and consultation activities related to potentially interested and/or affected Indigenous communities, with the objectives to:

- Provide opportunities for information sharing between Hydro One and potentially affected Indigenous communities, as identified by the Crown, or others that have asserted their rights, including information about the Project and associated review and regulatory processes;
- Identify the potential adverse effects of the Project on *Constitution Act* Section 35 Aboriginal and treaty rights;
- Identify the potential adverse effects of the Project on other interests, including social, environmental, economic, health and culture; and,
- Work with potentially affected Indigenous communities, as identified by the Crown, or others that have asserted their Aboriginal and/or treaty rights and interests, to identify measures to mitigate or avoid those potential adverse effects.

The following are Hydro One's guiding principles for engaging the identified Indigenous communities:

- *Working with and Understanding the Indigenous Communities* – Hydro One will collaborate with Indigenous communities to better understand their rights and asserted rights as well as their concerns for the people affected by work in the areas where Hydro One may operate. Hydro One will show respect for traditional ways and land, cultural heritage resources, the environment, and traditional knowledge.
- *Commitment to Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy* – Hydro One will follow internal policies with respect to working with Indigenous communities. Hydro One's Indigenous



Relations Policy is available for review online at:

<https://www.hydroone.com/abouthydroone/indigenousrelations/Documents/Hydro%20One%20Indigenous%20Relations%20Policy.pdf>.

- *Open, Transparent and Respectful Communication* – Hydro One will act and encourage open dialogue and communication on Project events and details, and be attentive and responsive to Indigenous community concerns.

A project of this type may operate for a long period of time and it is Hydro One's intention to engage Indigenous communities based on the foundations of respect, cooperation and open communication on a long-term basis with the intent of building mutually beneficial relationships.

Hydro One's engagement efforts with communities seek to provide all communities with information, and to be engaged in a direct dialogue, in order to allow both Hydro One and each Indigenous community to understand the potential for effects to rights, interests and use of lands and resources. It is recognized that some Indigenous communities will take greater interest in the Project than others, and seek more engagement, discussion of mitigation, or potentially accommodation, considering factors such as proximity to the Project, rights claims of Indigenous communities, expressed interest of the community or through work completed as part of the EA, including IK studies.

Hydro One understands that there may be additional factors affecting engagement and will engage in good faith with Indigenous communities to better understand Indigenous views on the Project as well as the appropriate mitigation and/or accommodation. It will be the Crown's responsibility to assess the adequacy of engagement on rights-based impacts, as well as any necessary accommodation, and the MECP will determine the adequacy of engagement in accordance with the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

This Record of Consultation serves as a directory to Hydro One's key consultation activities with stakeholders, federal and provincial government agencies, and Indigenous communities that align with MECP's Code of Practice: Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process (MECP, 2014).

**Section 4.1** Engagement Summary of the Final EA Report outlines the provincial regulatory requirements for consultation within Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*, 1990 (EAA). Hydro One has and will continue to exercise due diligence in carrying out the delegated aspects of consultation and continue to carry out relationship-building activities that extend beyond the procedural requirements of consultation.



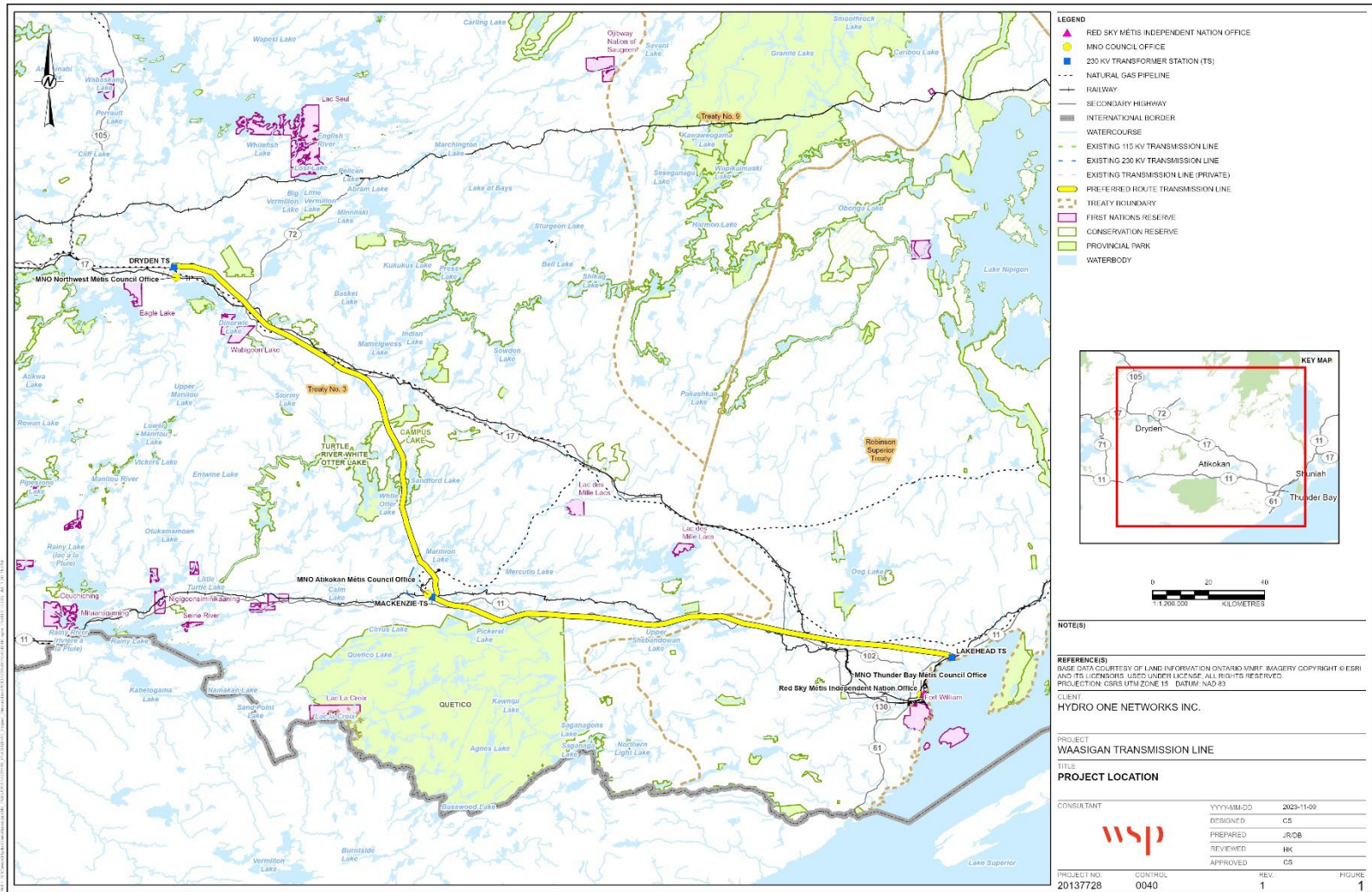


Figure 1.1-1: Project Location



## 2.0 Stakeholder Engagement

---

This section provides an overview of the engagement activities undertaken for the reporting period with Project stakeholders, including municipal officials, provincial and federal government agencies, members of the public, businesses, interest groups, community organizations and residents. **Section 2.1** provide an outline of how stakeholders were identified. **Section 2.2** outlines engagement activities and materials shared with stakeholders. **Section 2.3** indexes the record of consultation for stakeholders by grouping.

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken referencing the Stakeholder Consultation Plan outlined in Section 10.0 of the Amended ToR.

### 2.1 Stakeholder Identification

---

Hydro One identified a preliminary list of stakeholders at the outset of the Project that might be affected by, or interested in, the Project. Stakeholders identified included:

- Local municipalities, towns, townships and service boards for unincorporated areas located within the Study Area;
- Any elected representative or government agency with an interest in the Project;
- Residents located within the Study Area;
- Any member of the public with an interest in the Project; and
- Any other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses, resource-based companies including mining and forestry operations, mining claim holders, non-government organizations, etc.) with a potential interest in the Project.

The Project contact list was updated throughout the EA process as new stakeholders were identified, and when stakeholders asked to be included on the list or asked to be removed. The stakeholder contact lists for municipalities, government agencies, businesses, interest groups, and community members for the current reporting period are provided in **Appendix A**. Contact information for members of the public are not reported to protect privacy. **Section 2.3** provides an engagement summary for stakeholders that outlines the detailed record of consultation and supporting materials associated with key engagement milestones attached to this report.

Representatives of municipalities crossed by the Study Area, including the alternative routes assessed as part of the EA, are identified as part of the Government Review Team (GRT). From east to west these communities are:

- Municipality of Shuniah;
- City of Thunder Bay;



- Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge;
- Township of Conmee;
- Township of O'Connor;
- Town of Atikokan;
- Township of Ignace; and
- City of Dryden.

As well, notifications were shared with the City of Kenora and Town of Fort Frances. Engagement with local service boards, including local roads boards, was also initiated following the announcement of the preliminary preferred route in 2023.

Representatives of relevant provincial government agencies were identified through the GRT list provided by the MECP. These include:

- Infrastructure Ontario (IO)
- Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)
- Ministry of Energy (formerly part of the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines [ENDM])
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) (formerly part of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries [MHSTCI])
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) (formerly part of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry [MNDMNRF])
- Ministry of Mines (formerly part of ENDM and MNDMNRF)
- Ministry of Northern Development (formerly part of ENDM and MNDMNRF)
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
- Ministry of the Solicitor General

- Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
- Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

Representatives of relevant federal government agencies were identified through the GRT list provided by the MECP. These include:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Transport Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Additional contacts were added to the list through attendance at agency meetings, requests to be added, and by attending and signing in at community open houses.

Elected officials and key staff from local communities including, but not limited to, mayors, clerks, chief administrative officers (CAOs), and economic development officers, were included in the contact list. First responders, such as emergency medical services, local fire departments and police with jurisdiction in potentially affected communities, were also included on the Project contact list as recommended by the MECP. Engagement with local service boards, including road boards, was also initiated following the announcement of the preliminary preferred route in 2023.

The contact list for businesses, interest groups, community organizations and community members consists of those who may reside in or near the Study Area, those who have potential to be affected by the Project, and those with an interest in the Project. Members of the public were able to ask to be added to the contact list through the Project website, Hydro One's Community Relations phone line and email, by responding to notices received, or by attending and signing in at community open houses. Efforts were made to identify other key stakeholders through web searches, stakeholder mapping exercises, review of Ontario Energy Board planning documentation regarding the Project, and by asking local municipal staff about active groups and individuals that should be included on the contact list. Publication of notices in commonly read newspapers and social media advertisements throughout the Study Area also provided opportunities for stakeholders to identify themselves.

Specific businesses, interest groups and community organizations identified to date include, but are not limited to:

- Common Voice Northwest;
- Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce;

- Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition;
- Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC);
- Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA);
- Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA);
- Lakehead University;
- Confederation College;
- Labour unions, including Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) and Canadian Union of Skilled Workers (CUSW);
- Non-government organizations representing a variety of interests, such as nature appreciation/education, hunting, fishing, trail users, recreational users (e.g., naturalist clubs, snowmobile clubs, gun clubs, etc.), camping, and tourism organizations;
- Contacts managed by the MNRF, including rights, permits, and/or licence holders for Crown land dispositions, trap lines, bait fish blocks, and bear management areas;
- Railway companies, including Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) and Canadian National Railway (CNR);
- Mining and forestry rights holders and companies, and industry representatives;
- Vendors that may have services to offer during the EA and, if approved, construction and maintenance;
- Property owners and community groups including;
- Neighbours on the Line (NOTL); and
- Shebandowan Lake Campers' Association.

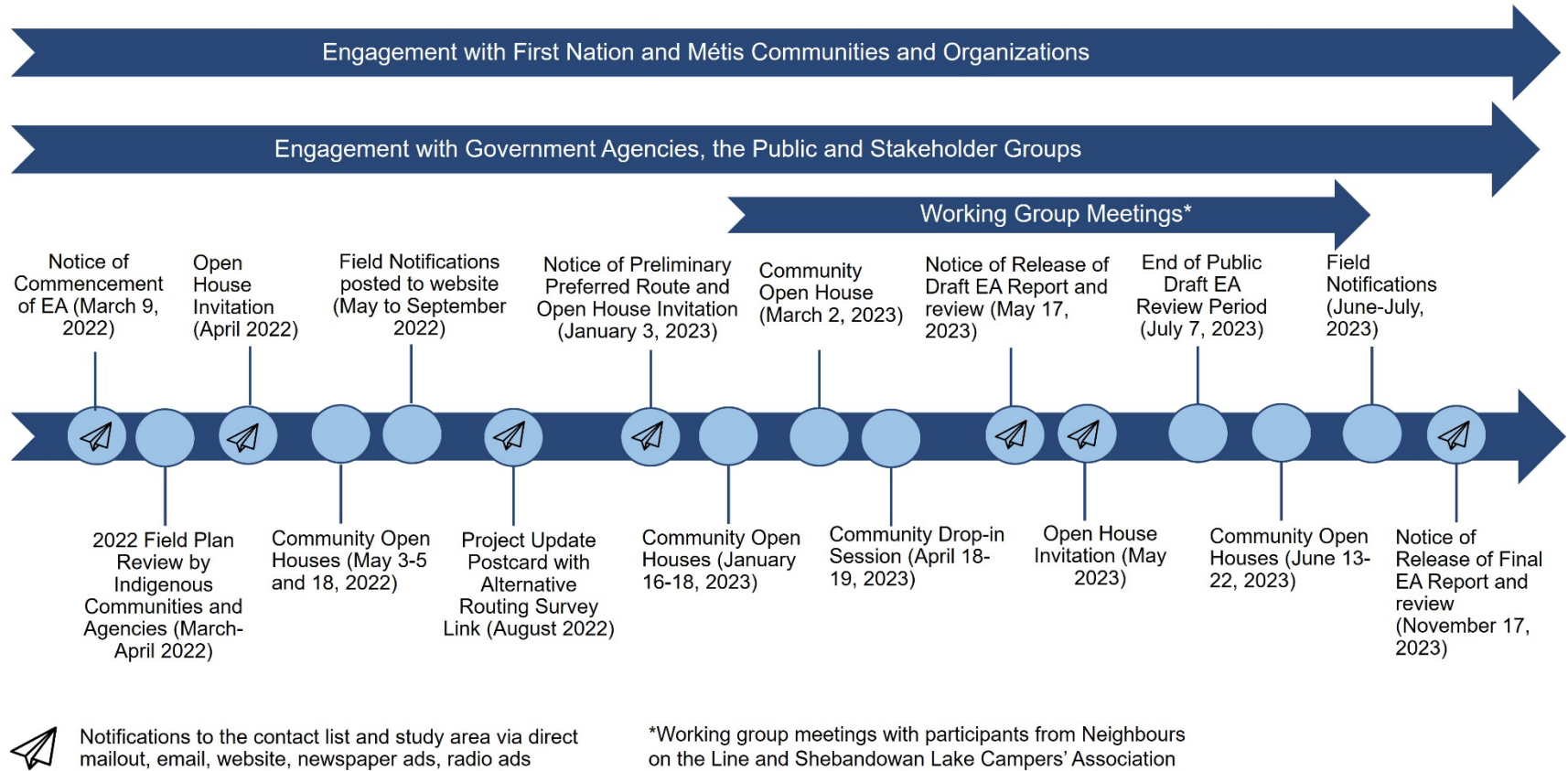
The most frequent engagement included regular meetings between Hydro One, the Ministry of Energy, MNRF and MECP. These agencies are responsible for the EA process (MECP), and the duty to consult (Ministry of Energy), the procedural elements of which are delegated to Hydro One. Topic-specific engagements were also held with responsible agencies. For example, working with MECP for information and input related to species at risk and provincial parks.

## 2.2 Engagement Activities

---

A timeline of EA engagement during the reporting period, including formal notices, field survey activities, and public open house sessions, including community open house and community drop-in sessions with local community members and property owners in Kaministiquia, is provided in Figure 2.2-1. In addition to the community open house sessions open to all interested persons shown in the figure, community open house sessions with Indigenous communities were held, as described in **Section 3.0**. As well, ongoing engagement through workshops, meetings, letters, emails, phone calls, the Project website and social media continued with stakeholder groups (see **Section 2.3**) and Indigenous communities (see **Section 3.3**) throughout the reporting period.

Copies of materials shared and comments received through these engagement activities are provided in the Appendices of this report, described in the sections following the figure. Summaries of these EA engagement activities are also provided in **Section 4.4** of the Final EA Report, per stakeholder group.



**Figure 2.2-1: EA Engagement Activities**

## 2.2.1 Project Notifications

---

Copies of formal notices and invitations to open house sessions for EA engagement during the reporting period provided in **Appendix B** include the following:

- Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment, dated March 9, 2022 (English, French, Anishinaabemowin);
- Invitation to the May 2022 Community Open Houses, dated April 20, 2022 (Thunder Bay, Dryden, Atikokan and Virtual session) (English, French, Anishinaabemowin);
- Project Update Postcard (including access to the online routing input survey), issued August 2022, as well as:
  - Print copy of the routing survey; and
  - Routing Survey - Summary of Comments Received;
- Preliminary Preferred Route notification and invitation to the January 2023 Community Open Houses, dated January 3, 2023 (Thunder Bay, Dryden, Atikokan and virtual session) (English, French, Anishinaabemowin);
- Invitation to the March 2, 2023 Community Open House (Kaministiquia Community Centre), issued February 17, 2023;
- Invitation to Community Drop-in Hours April 18 and 19, 2023 (Kaministiquia Community Centre); issued April 13, 2023;
- Notice of Draft Environmental Assessment Available for Review, dated May 17, 2023 (English, French, Anishinaabemowin);
- Invitation to Public Community Open Houses for the Draft Environmental Assessment in Dryden, Atikokan, Kaministiquia and Thunder Bay issued May 17, 2023;
- Update to the invitation for the Public Community Open Houses for the Draft Environmental Assessment in Dryden, Atikokan, Kaministiquia and Thunder Bay issued June 15, 2023; and
- Notice of Submission of Environmental Assessment, dated November 17, 2023 (English, French, Anishinaabemowin).

Distribution for each notification is described in **Section 4.0** of the Final EA Report and in the records of consultation for stakeholder groups engaged (see **Section 2.3**). Notices were shared using the following methods:

- Email to the Project contact list current at the time of distribution;



- Mailed via Canada Post Neighbourhood Mail to approximately 56,000 local property owners, residents and businesses in the Project area that may be potentially affected and/or interested in the Project, and to mailing addresses for stakeholders who have requested accommodation to receive Project updates via mail;
- Published in local newspapers as advertisements (e.g., Atikokan Progress, Dryden Bulletin, Fort Frances Times, Kenora News and Miner, Neebing News, Oliver Paipooonge News, Sioux Lookout Bulletin, Shuniah News, Thunder Bay Chronicle, Thunder Bay Source);
- Released on local radio (Thunder Bay (CJUK-FM) and Dryden (CKDR-FM));
- Addressed mail to mining claimholders identified by the Ministry of Mines;
- Addressed mail to licence holders (e.g., trapline, baitfish and bear management areas) and lease/land use permit holders by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF); and
- Hydro One's website and targeted social media advertisements (Facebook and Instagram).

The Project Update Postcard, which included information on the routing input survey, was shared in August 2022 by email to the Project contact list current at the time of distribution, mailed in hard copy via Canada Post Neighbourhood Mail to approximately 56,000 local property owners, residents and businesses in the Project area that may be potentially affected and/or interested in the Project, and released on Hydro One's website and by targeted social media advertisements (Facebook and Instagram). **Appendix B** also provides a copy of the content of the routing input survey and summarizes the comments received through the survey between April and October 2022.

In January 2023, following selection of a preliminary preferred route, directly impacted property owners located in Phase 1 of the Project received a letter from Hydro One introducing their dedicated real estate representative, outlining the company's land acquisition program principles, and providing property-specific mapping. Following the IESO's announcement of an in-service date for Phase 2 of the Project, directly impacted property owners located in Phase 2 were mailed a letter from Hydro One in June 2023, followed by a package in September 2023 introducing their dedicated real estate representatives, outlining the company's land acquisition program principles, and providing property-specific mapping.

Hydro One continues to engage with landowners. This includes investigating local route refinements and talking to individual landowners about site-specific mitigation measures to limit effects to landowners, to the extent possible. Hydro One will continue to work with landowners to ensure refinements are considered, when possible.





Invitation to the March 2, 2023 Community Open House (Kaministiquia Community Centre) was shared on February 17, 2023 through email to contacts who expressed interest in the area, including the community organizations Neighbours on the Line (NOTL) and the Shebandowan Lake Campers' Association, Canada Post Neighbourhood Mail and newspaper advertisements. Invitation to Community Drop-in Hours on April 18 and 19, 2023 (Kaministiquia Community Centre) were shared via local letter drop-off. Invitation to Community Open Houses to discuss the Draft EA (Dryden, Atikokan, Kaministiquia and Thunder Bay) were shared on May 17, 2023 via email to those on the Project contact list at the time of distribution and local letter drop-off. Details of the notice/invitation were also released on Hydro One's website and social media, as well as published in local newspapers. Additional notification of a date change for the session in Thunder Bay was released on the Waasigan Project Website, by email to the Project contact list, posted at the venue and on the radio on June 15, 2023.

In support of field studies in 2020 and 2022 additional notifications were shared by a third-party land agent (CanAcre) who reached out to private property owners where their properties were crossed by any of the alternative routes, to seek agreements for temporary access. Contact was made by phone, mail and in-person visits. Approximately 650 agreements were reached. Where property owners did not agree to a temporary access agreement, properties were not accessed for field studies.

### 2.2.2 Field Program Notifications

---

Between May 2022 and September 2022, nine field work notices were shared to Indigenous community contacts and posted to the Project website including the purpose, specific timing and detailed mapping of locations of field surveys for: amphibian, turtle basking, bat hibernacula, bat maternity roost, breeding birds, eastern whip-poor-will, barn and bank swallow, aquatics, botanical, gray fox, significant wildlife habitat, cultural heritage and visual assessment.

Two additional field notices were shared with Indigenous community contacts in June and July 2023 for the Stage 2 Archeological Assessment and the Cultural Heritage Evaluation. Information within the notices included the purpose, specific timing and detailed mapping of locations of field surveys and opportunities for Indigenous participation.

**Appendix C** provides copies of these field notifications.

Additional information on how Indigenous communities were engaged during this process is provided in **Section 3.2.4**.

### 2.2.3 Community Open Houses

---

During development of the Terms of Reference for the Project between 2019 and 2021, engagement including in-person and virtual open house sessions was undertaken, as documented in the Records of Consultation supporting the draft and Amended Terms of Reference. During the reporting period, ten in-person community open house sessions and two community drop-in sessions in the Project area, as well as two virtual room sessions, were held



to share information on the Project and receive feedback. More than 300 people attended in-person open house meetings and approximately 2,800 people accessed the virtual open houses and rooms. A notice sharing the release of the Draft EA Report also included an invitation to the June 2023 community open houses. Four community open houses were held to present the Draft EA findings for review and comment.

Information presented at community open houses and summary reports of the events, including comments shared, are provided in **Appendix D** by engagement round, as listed below.

### **Community Open Houses Round 1:**

- May 2022 Community Open House materials, including:
  - Display boards on the Project, regional benefits, steps of the EA, alternative routes, proposed alternative route analysis process, real estate requirements, early contractor involvement, Project timelines, field surveys, role of Indigenous Knowledge, and the engagement milestones and how to share feedback;
  - Large format maps of the alternative routes;
  - Handouts including an information sheet on the EA process, a QR code and weblink to access the routing input survey, proposed route evaluation criteria, and information from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO);
- Summary report for the community open house in Dryden on May 3, 2022;
- Summary report for the community open house in Atikokan on May 4, 2022;
- Summary report for the community open house in Thunder Bay on May 5, 2022; and
- Livestream presentation survey results and comments received during the virtual open house on May 18, 2022.

Table 2.2-1 summarizes the meeting details and attendee information.

**Table 2.2-1: First Round of Community Open Houses**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
May 3, 2022	Dryden	9	Provide information and engage with stakeholders about the Project, including the proposed alternative route evaluation process.
May 4, 2022	Atikokan	16	Provide information and engage with stakeholders about the Project, including the proposed alternative route evaluation process.
May 5, 2022	Thunder Bay	48	Provide information and engage with stakeholders about the Project,



Date	Location	Attendees	Purpose
			including the proposed alternative route evaluation process.
May 18, 2022	Virtual	2,611	Provide information, engage with stakeholders about the Project and collect feedback on the alternative routes and evaluation process for the EA.

### Community Open Houses Round 2:

- January to April 2023 Community Open House materials, including:
  - Display boards describing: the Project, regional benefits, equity-sharing partnership with nine First Nations, steps in the EA, engagement to date, field programs, alternative route analysis process, preliminary preferred route, environmental effects and mitigation, how Hydro one will work with property owners, Project timelines and next steps, construction contractor, and how to provide feedback;
  - Large format maps of the preliminary preferred route;
  - Handouts of the EA process, alternative route evaluation criteria, electric and magnetic fields, project need and Project mapping showing the preliminary preferred route;
- Summary report for the community open house in Thunder Bay on January 16, 2023;
- Summary report for the community open house in Atikokan on January 17, 2023;
- Summary report for the community open house in Dryden January 18, 2023;
- Summary report for the community open house in Kaministiquia on March 2, 2023; and
- Panels shared at community drop-in on April 18 and 19, 2023 in Kaministiquia.

Table 2.2-2 summarizes the meeting details and attendee information.

**Table 2.2-2: Second Round of Community Open Houses**

Date	Location	Attendees	Purpose
January 16, 2023	Virtual	222 between January 16 and January 30, 2022	Provide Project overview and update, including sharing results of the alternative route evaluation and the preliminary preferred route.
January 16, 2023	Thunder Bay	86	Provide Project overview and update, including sharing results of the alternative route evaluation and the preliminary preferred route.



Date	Location	Attendees	Purpose
January 17, 2023	Atikokan	24	Provide Project overview and update, including sharing results of the alternative route evaluation and the preliminary preferred route.
January 18, 2023	Dryden	12	Provide Project overview and update, including sharing results of the alternative route evaluation and the preliminary preferred route.
March 2, 2023	Kaministiquia	80	Provide Project overview and update, including sharing results of the alternative route evaluation and the preliminary preferred route.

### Community Open Houses Round 3:

- June 2023 Community Open House materials, including:
  - Display boards describing: the Project, need for the Project, Project update, Project timelines and next steps, Draft EA report review including an overall summary and conclusions and highlights of the natural environment and socio-economic environment, summary of First Nations and Métis Rights, Interest and Use of Land and Resources, along with how Hydro One's commitment to continue working with property owners and how to provide feedback;
  - Large format maps of the Project footprint;
  - Available handouts including plain language summary of EA findings, Notice of Release of the Draft EA (English, French and Anishnaabemowin) showing a map of the Project, overview of the EA process, information on electric and magnetic fields (EMF), and summary of topics considered in alternative route evaluation;
- Summary report for the community open house in Dryden June 13, 2023;
- Summary report for the community open house in Atikokan on June 14, 2023;
- Summary report for the community open house in Thunder Bay on June 22, 2023; and
- Summary report for the community open house in Kaministiquia on June 20, 2023.

Table 2.2-3 summarizes the meeting details and attendee information.

**Table 2.2-3: Third Round of Community Open Houses**

Date	Location	Attendees	Purpose
June 13, 2023	Dryden	15	Discuss the Draft Environmental Assessment findings
June 14, 2023	Atikokan	20	Discuss the Draft Environmental Assessment findings
June 20, 2023	Kaministiquia	20	Discuss the Draft Environmental Assessment findings



Date	Location	Attendees	Purpose
June 22, 2023	Thunder Bay	17	Discuss the Draft Environmental Assessment findings

### 2.2.4 Working Groups and Landowners Meetings

Hydro One and residents in the Kaministiquia established a working group in March 2023 so that Hydro One could better understand concerns and propose mitigation measures. An open house was held in Kaministiquia in March 2023 to address feedback received through Community Open House Round 2, described in Section 2.2.3.

Hydro One met with the established community group called Neighbours on the Line (NOTL) on February 22, 2023 to listen and better understand their concerns regarding the selection of a preliminary preferred route, including a new proposed route which they put forth. Subsequent meetings with both the broader working group and NOTL's technical experts were held. This included five meetings in March and April of 2023 to continue to discuss Project feedback and the alternative route proposed by NOTL. NOTL members also attended the Community Open House Round 3 in Kaministiquia on June 20, 2023.

Hydro One met with residents from the Shebandowan area on February 22, 2023 to seek feedback on the preliminary preferred route. A subsequent meeting was held on March 30, 2023 to discuss refinement that could be made to the preliminary preferred route, based on feedback provided. Hydro One met with the Shebandowan Lake Campers' Association on April 18, 2023 to discuss the Project, including to present a route refinement which realigned the preferred route to be adjacent to the existing transmission line.

A community drop-in session was also held with potentially affected landowners in Kaministiquia on April 18 and 19, 2023 to share the evaluation results of the NOTL proposed route and engage with the community.

Information presented at community open houses and summary reports of the events, including comments shared, are provided in **Appendix D**.

Hydro One held meetings with individual landowners and groups of landowners, including those who attended open houses. Concerns included impacts to the visual landscape, the natural environment as it relates to habitat and vegetation, and impact to property values. Hydro One committed to working with these landowners to better understand the concerns and if possible, propose mitigation solutions. A summary of these conversations is included in Section 4.4.4 of the Engagement Summary (Section 4.0) of the Report.

## 2.3 Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Table 2.3-1 serves as a directory to the associated appendices within this Record of Consultation for key consultation activities through the reporting period. This includes communications between Hydro One and stakeholder groups (**Appendices E, F, and G**) and



copies of information shared and comments received (e.g., workshop reports, presentation materials, letters).

The Project contact list for federal, provincial, and municipal government representatives and agencies, and businesses, interest groups and community members for the current reporting period can be found in **Appendix A**. Contact information for members of the public who requested inclusion in the contact list are not reported to protect privacy. The tabular record of activities and supporting materials are provided in **Appendix E** for Municipal government representatives and agencies, **Appendix F** for provincial and federal government representatives and agencies, and **Appendix G** for businesses, interest groups and community members. Project notifications, including the Notice of Commencement of the EA can be found in **Appendix B**. Open house materials, including comments received, can be found in **Appendix D**.

The records of consultation for each group include documentation of comments or issues raised by stakeholders through the following engagement activities:

- Routing input survey;
- Community open house discussions and completed comment forms;
- Workshops and meetings; and
- Comments received through letters, the Project phone line and/or email, including comments received on the Draft EA Report.

**Section 4.0** Engagement Summary within the Final EA Report summarizes the themes of issues raised and provides the sections of the Final EA Report relevant to those themes. Copies of comments received on the Draft EA Report with responses from Hydro One can be found in Appendix 4.0-A of the Final EA Report. Themes within comments received through engagement with stakeholders (Final EA Report Section 4.4.4 Input from Stakeholders) include:

- Process and outcomes of the **alternative route evaluation**;
- Input from property owners impacted by or in the vicinity of the **preliminary preferred route**;
- Understanding the **Project design**, including how the Project will relate to existing transmission line easements and the role of the Project within the electricity system;
- How the Project may affect the **environment**, including to wildlife, recreation and tourism, built and cultural heritage, visual aesthetics, water quality, well water, human health and community well-being;
- Feedback on **engagement** activities, tools and messaging to date;



- Concerns from stakeholders and members of the public related to the use of **herbicides** for building and maintaining the line;
- Input regarding **route alignment** and visual effects from line, including interest in the visual effects assessment;
- Comments regarding **trespassing** and unauthorized access to the corridor adjacent to private properties;
- Request from government agencies to highlight how commitments made in the **Terms of Reference** were fulfilled;
- Interest from government agencies in the construction **Environmental Protection Plan**; and
- Input from government agencies to include **relevant regulations and approvals** to be reflected in the Final EA.



**Table 2.3-1: Stakeholder Engagement Records and Support Documents**

Contact Group	Supporting Material
<b>Municipal Contacts</b>	<p>Appendix E Municipal Record of Consultation Supporting Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Municipal Stakeholders.</li> <li>2. Press Release from NOMA re: the agreement between Hydro One and the GLP. May 4, 2022.</li> <li>3. Letter from the Mayor of the Town of Atikokan re: Hydro One’s partnership with First Nation communities. May 5, 2022.</li> </ol> <p>See also Appendix F Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation Supporting Documents for GRT workshop materials.</p>
<b>Provincial Contacts</b>	<p>Appendix F Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation Supporting Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Provincial and Federal Stakeholders.</li> <li>2. September 7, 2022 GRT Project Update and Alternative Route Evaluation Workshop.</li> <li>3. Presentation and minutes. November 22, 2022 GRT workshop meeting minutes.</li> <li>4. Limits of Work memo. December 15, 2022.</li> <li>5. January 31, 2023 letter from MNRF to Hydro One regarding the Limits of Work proposal for the Waasigan Transmission Line.</li> <li>6. March 6, 2023 letter from MECP SARB Branch comments regarding bat hibernacula data and Hydro One response message.</li> <li>7. June 30, 2023 email from Ministry of Mines providing comments on the draft EA.</li> <li>8. July 4, 2023 letter from LRCA comments on the draft EA.</li> <li>9. July 7, 2023 letter from MNRF comments on the draft EA.</li> <li>10. July 7, 2023 email from the Ministry of Energy providing comments on the draft EA.</li> <li>11. July 7, 2023 email from MTCS providing comments on the draft EA.</li> <li>12. July 10, 2023 letter from MCM comments on the draft EA.</li> <li>13. August 1, 2023 letter from MECP comments on the draft EA.</li> </ol>



Contact Group	Supporting Material
<p><b>Federal Contacts</b></p>	<p>Appendix F Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation Supporting Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Provincial and Federal Stakeholders.</li> <li>2. September 7, 2022 Government Review Team (GRT) Project Update and Alternative Route Evaluation Workshop.</li> <li>3. Presentation and minutes. November 22, 2022 (GRT) workshop meeting minutes.</li> <li>4. Limits of Work memo. December 15, 2022.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Businesses, Interest Groups, Community Organizations, Local Community and the Public</b></p>	<p>Appendix G Businesses, Interest Groups and Community Members Record of Consultation Supporting Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Businesses, Interest Groups, Community Organizations and the public.</li> <li>2. Canadian Union of Skilled Workers (CUSW) Letter of Support May 12, 2022.</li> <li>3. Minutes for February 22, 2023 meeting with NOTL re: NOTL's proposed alternative route.</li> <li>4. Minutes for March 14, 2023 technical meeting with NOTL.</li> <li>5. Minutes for March 21, 2023 technical meeting with NOTL.</li> <li>6. Letter from NOTL; grievances with preliminary preferred route.</li> <li>7. Presentation by Hydro One to NOTL sharing findings of their analysis of the NOTL route.</li> <li>8. Concerns shared to Hydro One and MECP regarding the Waasigan Transmission Line preliminary preferred route and March 15, 2023 letter from MECP in response.</li> <li>9. Letter from the Shabandowan Lake Campers' Association.</li> <li>10. Compiled public comments on the Draft EA from May 17 to September 1, 2023.</li> </ol> <p>See also Appendix B Project Notifications and Updates Supporting Documents including Engagement Survey - Summary of Comments Received.</p> <p>See also Appendix D Open House Materials including comments received at community open houses.</p>



## 3.0 Indigenous Engagement

---

This section describes the engagement and consultation activities undertaken for the reporting period with Indigenous communities, referencing the Indigenous Engagement Plan outlined in Section 10.0 of the Amended ToR and subsequent discussion of engagement protocols (see Section 3.2.1). Hydro One considers Indigenous communities to be First Nations, Inuit and Métis Groups of Canada, as identified in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, inclusive of their communities, Nations and organizations. **Section 3.1** outlines how Indigenous communities that Hydro One has engaged with during development of the EA were identified. **Section 3.2** outlines engagement activities and materials shared. **Section 3.3** indexes the record of consultation with Indigenous communities and organizations, as well as supporting materials.

### 3.1 Identification of Indigenous Communities

---

The Ministry of Energy (formerly Ministry of Energy, North Development and Mines) delegated the procedural aspects of the Crown's duty to consult to Hydro One via a letter dated October 25, 2018. The Ministry of Energy determined the proposed Project may have the potential to affect First Nation and Métis communities who hold, or claim protected Aboriginal or treaty rights. Hydro One recognizes that potential impacts of the Project to some Indigenous communities' asserted and/or recognized Aboriginal and treaty rights may be greater than impacts on other communities.

The Crown has advised that the following First Nation communities should be consulted on the basis they have or may have constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely affected by the Project:

- Couchiching First Nation\*
- Fort William First Nation (Anemki Wajiw)
- Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation (Nezaadikaang)
- Lac La Croix First Nation (Gakijiwanoong)
- Lac Seul First Nation (Obishikokaang)
- Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation)
- Mitaanjigamiing First Nation\*
- Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation
- Ojibway Nation of Saugeen
- Seine River First Nation (Chima'aganing)



- Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (Waabigonii Zaaga'igan)

\*Note: Added by way of amendment to the consultation list received from Energy on April 15, 2020.

The Crown also recommended Hydro One include Grand Council Treaty #3 on correspondence for information sharing purposes only.

The Crown has also advised that the Project may have adverse impacts on Aboriginal or Treaty rights asserted by present day Métis communities affiliated with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) that claim to be connected to historic Métis communities in the vicinity of Rainy River/Lake of the Woods and Northern Lake Superior (Northwestern Ontario Métis Community [NWOMC] and Region 2), or consist of descendants of signatories to the Robinson Superior Treaty 1850 (Red Sky Métis Independent Nation).

Through capacity funding agreements (CFAs) signed with each participating Indigenous community, funding was made available for communities to hire a Project-dedicated Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC) or Consultation Advisor. Individuals in this role act as a point of contact for the community or Region and the Project team to share information and coordinate activities, such as meetings with community leadership, community open houses, and to distribute Project updates within the community. A CEC/Consultation Advisor was appointed by most communities. For some communities, the scope of the role was addressed by current community staff, often staff currently supporting the community (e.g., Lands and Resources staff).

Reflected in the record of consultation with MNO NWOMC (also known as MNO Region 1), and Region 2 in **Appendix I**, MNO's Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch is the primary point of contact for consultation on the Project with the present-day communities as represented by the MNO. MNO NWOMC and Region 2 Consultation Committee are copied on any Project-related information shared by Hydro One with the MNO's Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch. Hydro One continues to work with Métis communities in the Project area, including through their preferred community representatives and governments, to understand their concerns for the purposes of informing the Crown's duty to consult.

Hydro One is also engaging with the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP), a partnership of eight First Nations communities that was formed to facilitate engagement and participation, and, where appropriate, accommodation for the Project. The GLP is made up of the following First Nation communities: Fort William First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Migisi Sahgaigan, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Seine River First Nation, and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. GLP has entered into a partnership with Hydro One on the Project for the opportunity to invest in the ownership of the Waasigan Transmission Line Project once constructed. The GLP structure includes a Board of Directors and an Environmental Protection Committee with representation by a member from each of the communities on the Board and Committee. The GLP structure also includes a CEC



Network which brings together the CECs from each GLP member First Nation for the purposes of information sharing, peer networking, professional development and other project specific collaborations.

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation and Hydro One have also entered into a partnership agreement that provides the First Nation the opportunity to invest in the ownership of the Waasigan Transmission Line Project once constructed.

The Project contact list for Chiefs and Council, Métis leadership, advisor, and staff contacts for the current reporting period can be found in **Appendix H**. Contact information for community members or members of the public who requested inclusion in the contact list are not reported to protect privacy. Details of engagement per community are outlined in **Section 3.3** and the tabular record of activities and supporting materials are provided in **Appendix I**.

The degree of interaction between the Project Team and the CECs, Consultation Advisors or community representatives has varied based on the needs of each community, as reflected in the record of consultation (**Appendix I**).

## 3.2 Engagement Activities

---

In addition to the engagement activities described in **Section 2.2** applicable to all interested persons, specific additional engagement activities were undertaken with Indigenous communities, including the following:

- Document review (Section 3.2.3);
- Field program notification (Section 3.2.4);
- Field program participation (Section 3.2.5); and
- Community open houses and workshops (Section 3.2.6).

Information shared and responses to comments per community are provided in **Appendix I**, as shown in **Section 3.3**. Summaries of these EA engagement activities are also provided in **Section 4.5** of the Final EA Report, per community.

These activities were undertaken within the context of the Waasigan Transmission Line Consultation Plan prepared under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hydro One and Ministry of Energy and the Indigenous Community Engagement Plan included in the Amended ToR document. Engagement activities were also undertaken concurrent with Indigenous Knowledge (IK) studies and facilitated through the CFAs.

### 3.2.1 Memorandum of Understanding and Consultation Plan

---

On October 6, 2021, the Ministry of Energy requested that Hydro One contact all communities on the Waasigan Transmission Line Project consultation list to provide them with an opportunity



to review and discuss the Waasigan Transmission Line Consultation Plan made pursuant to the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hydro One and Ministry of Energy, separate and distinct from the Indigenous Community Engagement Plan included in the Amended ToR document. Engagement between October 2021 and February 2022 included written correspondence, meetings and workshops with: Couchiching First Nation, GLP (on behalf of Migisi Sahgaigan, Fort William First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Seine River First Nation and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation), Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, MNO NWOMC, MNO Region 2, Mitaanjigamiing First Nation and Red Sky Métis Independent Nation. The process resulted in an updated Waasigan Transmission Line Consultation Plan pursuant to the MOU in October 2021, establishing objectives and structures for engagement, including those carried out in support of the EA. The resulting update to the consultation plan and documentation of the engagement process to support it can be found in **Appendix I** containing engagement records with Indigenous communities.

### 3.2.2 Indigenous Knowledge Studies and Capacity Funding

---

Hydro One offered financial assistance through community-specific CFAs to assist with Indigenous participation in the EA process including, but not limited to, document review, supporting engagement logistics, coordinating community input and participation, and community-led gathering and recording of IK. CFAs were offered to, and discussed with, all participating Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the EA phase of the Project to advance participation. CFAs were signed with most communities during the EA phase. At their discretion, some communities retained consultants to support portions of the scope within the CFA, such as completion of IK studies.

Primary tasks initiated under CFAs included seeking a community contact for the Project, understanding the communities preferred consultation and communication approaches, coordinating regular updates and community engagement sessions, inviting participation in the review of Project documents and in field studies, and supporting community-led assessment of IK (e.g., considering traditional land use areas, traditional ecological knowledge, values and rights).

Throughout the EA process, Hydro One has provided opportunities for Indigenous communities to share IK and other information through the following steps:

- Establish IK framework and identify IK recorded by Indigenous communities, where communities were asked to review their available IK information and the location of the Project's alternative routes to undertake a 'gap analysis' on the extent or currency of available data relevant to the Project;
- Receive community-led scoping for additional studies to fill any identified information gaps and prepare reporting, including community protocols for sharing and using IK;



- Provide resources or capacity required to collect, record and share IK;
- Receive and engage with communities to discuss and understand IK studies shared, including study area, IK categories used, and protocols for use in the EA; and
- Provide opportunity for validation of how information shared by communities is reflected in reporting through review of the Draft EA Report.

**Section 4.5.4** – First Nation Communities and **Section 4.5.5** – Métis Communities of the Final EA Report provide a current assessment as to where in the process each community is at regarding the need for and status of IK studies. Further details on IK studies completed, their results and next steps for IK studies still in progress, are provided in Final EA Report **Section 7.7** for First Nations and **Section 7.8** for Métis communities. Hydro One understands the confidential nature of the IK provided by communities and wants to ensure that it is accurately and respectfully represented in the EA document prior to releasing it publicly. The sections on Indigenous rights, interests and use of lands and resources will be released publicly after communities have had the opportunity to review the information contained within it and will be included with the Final EA report when it is submitted to the MECP for review and decision.

Provincial agencies were kept apprised of Hydro One's fulfillment of the procedural aspects of consultation with each community through monthly meetings and regular reporting, reflected in the record of consultation in **Appendix F**.

### 3.2.3 Document Review

---

Along with provincial agencies, draft versions of aquatic and terrestrial field plans were shared with Indigenous communities for review and comment (**Appendix I**). Comments and responses received from the GLP on behalf of their member communities, Grand Council Treaty #3, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, MNO NWOMC and MNO Region 2 Consultation Committees and Red Sky Métis Independent Nation were compiled as an attachment to the field workplans available on the Project website. Input on the work plans shared in the Spring of 2022 influenced the process for field program notification and participation, as described in the following sections.

Input on work plans for air and noise assessments, cultural heritage field survey plans and the draft Stage 1 archaeological assessment report, was also requested. Feedback on the air and noise workplans was received from Migisi Sahgaigan, and the GLP on behalf of their member communities. Input was received from Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on the cultural heritage and Stage 1 archeological assessments. MNO NWOMC and Region 2 also provided input on the Stage 1 archaeological assessment.

Comments from Indigenous communities on the Draft EA Report were requested by Hydro One via email notifying the release of the Draft EA on May 17, 2023. Feedback on the Draft EA was received from the GLP on behalf of all member communities, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, MNO NWOMC and Region 2, and Grand Council Treaty #3 from June to August, 2023.



**Appendix I** includes copies of comments.

### 3.2.4 Field Program Notification

---

Between May 2022 and July 2023, field work notices were shared to Indigenous community contacts and posted to the Waasigan Project website, including the purpose, specific timing and detailed mapping of locations of field surveys for: amphibian, turtle basking, bat hibernacula, bat maternity roost, breeding birds, eastern whip-poor-will, barn and bank swallow, aquatics, botanical, gray fox, significant wildlife habitat, visual assessment, Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment and cultural heritage assessment and evaluation (**Appendix C**). **Appendix I** record of consultation reflects communications where field study schedules were modified periodically based on community input. For example, the schedule was revised based on availability of field monitors from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, which required field monitors to be present for the field work completed within its traditional territory.

Throughout the field season, bi-weekly updates were shared by email with Indigenous community contacts summarizing work completed, field crew members, notable findings and other observations, as reflected in the **Appendix I** record of consultation for each community engaged.

### 3.2.5 Field Program Participation

---

There were 17 participants from Indigenous communities on field teams during field surveys in 2022 and 10 participants assisting on the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment in 2023. Participation varied based on the preferences from the Indigenous community and included joining the field crew as monitors to represent the interests and concerns of their community, joining as Indigenous field crew members to gain technical training and build capacity for their communities, or participating in Hydro One-facilitated site visits to meet with field crews to get an overview of the planned field work.

Community representatives included members of Fort William First Nation, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, Couchiching First Nation, Red Sky Métis Independent Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, reflected in the **Appendix I** record of consultation, and one member from Whitesand First Nation. Additionally, there have been several site visits from Fort William First Nation, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, and MNO members for the Stage 2 Archeological Assessment in 2023.



Incorporation of Indigenous participation and other considerations in the field work included the following:

- An archaeology field technician training program for Indigenous community members to earn a certificate from the Ontario Archaeological Society and be eligible for employment opportunities for the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment;
- Indigenous field crew members were provided with field protocol training and technology to assist with data and field collections;
- All field crew members completing work within the traditional territory of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation completed the community’s own cultural awareness training; and
- Indigenous businesses were retained during field work to provide gasoline, food, and accommodation.

### 3.2.6 Community Open Houses

In addition to the public community open houses described in **Section 2.2**, which included participation by Indigenous community members, open house meetings were held within Indigenous communities who wished to have one, to provide updates on the Project and the EA process. Indigenous community open houses during the reporting period are listed in Table 3.2-1.

**Table 3.2-1: Indigenous Community Open Houses**

Date	Community	Attendees	Purpose
May 25, 2022	Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation)	20	Project overview, field study plans, IK, alternative route analysis, Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process, EA process and engagement
June 2, 2022	Lac Seul First Nation	14	Project overview, field study plans, IK, alternative route analysis, ECI process, EA process and engagement
September 1, 2022	Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation	18	Project overview, field study plans, IK, alternative route analysis, ECI process, EA process and engagement
September 14, 2022	MNO NWOMC; held in Dryden and virtual	52	Project overview, field study results, IK, alternative route analysis, ECI process, EA process and engagement





Date	Community	Attendees	Purpose
September 28, 2022	MNO Region 2; held in Thunder Bay	16	Project overview, field study results, IK, alternative route analysis, ECI process, EA process and engagement
October 27, 2022	Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	28	Project overview, field study results, IK, preliminary preferred route, ECI process, EA process and engagement
November 21, 2022	Seine River First Nation	13	Project overview, field study results, IK, preliminary preferred route, ECI process, EA process and engagement
December 8, 2022	Mitaanjigamiing First Nation	15	Project overview, field study results, IK, preliminary preferred route, ECI process, EA process and engagement
January 25, 2023	MNO NWOMC; held in Dryden and virtual	21	Identification of a preliminary preferred route, status of the EA assessment, EA method, selection of a contractor, IK and engagement
January 27, 2023	MNO Region 2; held in Thunder Bay	17	Identification of a preliminary preferred route, status of the EA assessment, EA method, selection of a contractor, IK and engagement
June 15, 2023	Lac Seul First Nation	12	Provide an overview and update of the Project, including discussing the Draft EA findings for review and comment.
June 28, 2023	Mitaanjigamiing First Nation	8	Provide an overview and update of the Project, including discussing the Draft EA findings for review and comment.
June 29, 2023	Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation)	8	Provide an overview and update of the Project, including discussing the Draft EA findings for review and comment.



Date	Community	Attendees	Purpose
July 17, 2023	Fort Williams First Nation	8	Provide an overview and update of the Project, including discussing the Draft EA findings for review and comment.
August 9, 2023	MNO Region 2; held in Thunder Bay	10	Provide an overview and update of the Project, including discussing the Draft EA findings for review and comment.
August 10, 2023	MNO NWOMC; held in Dryden and virtual	22	Provide an overview and update of the Project, including discussing the Draft EA findings for review and comment.

**Appendix I** includes reports for each event held including materials shared, and all comments and responses received.

Hydro One provided a Project update including discussion of the identification of a preliminary preferred route, status of the EA assessment, EA method, selection of a contractor, IK and engagement for the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Chief and Council in February 2023, at the request of the community leadership.

A two-day routing workshop, hosted by the GLP, was held in Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation in October 2022 for the eight GLP First Nations, their consultants and the Project team to come together to discuss the alternative route evaluation process and preliminary preferred route. The workshop included representatives from leadership, Elders and youth, with a separate Elder's session taking place during the event.

### 3.3 Indigenous Community Engagement Summary

Table 3.3-1 serves as a directory to the associated appendices within this Record of Consultation for key consultation activities through the reporting period. This includes communications between Hydro One and Indigenous communities (Appendix I) and copies of information shared and comments received (e.g., workshop reports, presentation materials, letters). **Section 4.0** Engagement Summary within the Final EA Report summarizes comments from Indigenous community participants, grouped by common themes, documented in **Appendix I** that were received through the following engagement activities:

- Community open house discussions and completed comment forms;
- Routing input survey submissions;

- Meetings;
- Comments received through letters, the Project phone line and/or email. Including comments received on Draft EA; and
- Formal correspondence received via phone and email, including input on field planning and work plans or IK studies.

**Section 4.0** Engagement Summary within the Final EA Report summarizes the themes of issues raised, and provides the sections of the Final EA Report relevant to these themes. Copies of comments received on the Draft EA Report along with responses from Hydro One can be found in Appendix 4.0-A of the Final EA Report.

Themes within comments received through engagement with Indigenous communities (Draft EA Report Section 4.5.7 Input from Indigenous community participants) include:

- Role of **Indigenous knowledge** in understanding the Project and its potential effects;
- Process and outcomes of the **alternative route evaluation**;
- Understanding the **Project design and practices**, including how the Project will relate to existing transmission line easements and vegetation management practices;
- How the Project may affect the **environment**, including to plants, wildlife, fish and fish habitat, archaeological sites and cultural heritage, visual aesthetics, water quality, human health, community well-being, experience on the land;
- Potential effects and mitigation relevant to current and traditional practice of **Aboriginal and treaty rights**;
- **Participation and benefits** of the Project to Indigenous community members;
- Feedback on **engagement** activities, tools and messaging to date;
- Concerns related to **herbicide use** when building and maintaining the line; and
- Commitments related to **monitoring, restoration and communication** during construction.



**Table 3.3-1: Indigenous Community Engagement Records and Support Documents**

Contact Group	Supporting Material
<b>All Communities and organizations</b>	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Waasigan Transmission Line Project Indigenous Consultation Plan – Updated Draft (February 2022).</li> <li>2. Project Notice, including link to 2022 Aquatic and Terrestrial Field Work Plans. March 2022.</li> <li>3. Summary of Milestones in the Waasigan Transmission Line EA Process. July 19, 2022.</li> </ol> See also Appendix B Project Notifications and Updates Supporting Documents. See also Appendix C Field Program Notification.
<b>First Nation Communities and Organizations</b>	
Couchiching First Nation	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Couchiching First Nation.</li> </ol>
Fort William First Nation (Anemki Wajiw)	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Fort William First Nation.</li> <li>2. Summary report for the June 17, 2023 community open house in Fort William First Nation.</li> </ol>
Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation (Nezaadikaang)	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation.</li> <li>2. Comments from Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on Stage 1 Archaeological Report emailed to Hydro One. October 18, 2022.</li> <li>3. Response to comments on the draft Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment emailed to Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. November 10, 2022.</li> <li>4. Comments from Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on the Draft EA. August 15, 2023.</li> </ol>
Lac La Croix First Nation (Gakijiwanoong)	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Lac la Croix First Nation.</li> </ol>



Contact Group	Supporting Material
Lac Seul First Nation (Obishikokaang)	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Lac Seul First Nation.</li> <li>2. Summary report for the June 2, 2022 community open house in Lac Seul First Nation.</li> <li>3. Summary report for the June 15, 2023 community open house in Lac Seul First Nation.</li> </ol>
Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation)	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Migisi Sahgaigan.</li> <li>2. Summary report for the May 25, 2022 Community Open House in Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation).</li> <li>3. Comments and responses on work plans for air quality and noise assessments. May 2022.</li> <li>4. Summary report for the June 29, 2023 community open house in Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation).</li> </ol>
Mitaanjigamiing First Nation	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Mitaanjigamiing First Nation.</li> <li>2. Summary for December 8, 2022 Mitaanjigamiing First Nation Community Open House.</li> <li>3. Summary report for the June 28, 2023 community open house in Mitaanjigamiing First Nation.</li> </ol>
Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation.</li> <li>2. Summary report for September 1, 2022 Community Open House in Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation.</li> </ol>
Ojibway Nation of Saugeen	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Ojibway Nation of Saugeen.</li> </ol>



Contact Group	Supporting Material
Seine River First Nation (Chima'aganing)	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Seine River First Nation.</li> <li>2. Summary report for the November 21, 2022 community open house in Seine River First Nation.</li> </ol>
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (Waabigonii Zaaga'igan)	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation.</li> <li>2. Summary report for the October 27, 2022 Community Open House in Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation.</li> </ol>
Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP)	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with GLP.</li> <li>2. October 4, 2022 Information update from Hydro One on EA milestones.</li> <li>3. October 25, 2022 Letter from Hydro One on early input to preliminary preferred route.</li> <li>4. December 2022 Waasigan Newsletter</li> <li>5. January to March 2023 Waasigan Newsletter</li> <li>6. Comments from GLP, on behalf of GLP member communities, on the draft EA emailed to Hydro One on June 5, 2023.</li> <li>7. July 2023 Waasigan Newsletter.</li> </ol>
Grand Council Treaty #3	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with GTC#3.</li> <li>2. Comments from GTC#3 on the draft EA emailed to Hydro One on July 6, 2023.</li> </ol>
<b>Métis Communities</b>	
Métis Nation of Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (also known as NWOMC Region 1)</li> <li>● (also known as MNO Region 2)</li> </ul>	Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with NWOMC and Region 2.</li> <li>2. March 22, 2022 and April 22, 2022 letter from NWOMC and Region 2.</li> <li>3. April 7, 2022 response letter from Hydro One to NWOMC and Region 2.</li> <li>4. Summary Report for the September 14, 2022 NWOMC Community Open House (Dryden).</li> <li>5. Summary Report for the September 28, 2022 MNO Region 2 Community Open House (Thunder Bay).</li> </ol>



Contact Group	Supporting Material
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Comments from NWOMC and Region 2 emailed to Hydro One re: Stage 1 Archaeological Report. December 22, 2022.</li> <li>7. Summary Report for the January 25, 2023 NWOMC Community Open House (Dryden).</li> <li>8. Summary report for the January 27, 2023 MNO Region 2 Community Open House (Thunder Bay).</li> <li>9. February 27, 2023 letter from NWOMC re: Preliminary preferred route.</li> <li>10. Letter from NWOMC and MNO Region 2 re: Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study Report. April 24, 2023.</li> <li>11. Response letter from Hydro One re. Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study Report. May 8, 2023.</li> <li>12. Letter from NWOMC and MNO Region 2 on the draft EA emailed to Hydro One on August 3, 2023.</li> <li>13. Comments from NWOMC and MNO Region 2 on the draft EA emailed to Hydro One on August 3, 2023.</li> <li>14. Summary report of the MNO Region 2 August 9, 2023 Community Open House in Thunder Bay.</li> <li>15. Summary report of the NWOMC August 10, 2023 Community Open House in Dryden.</li> </ol>
Red Sky Métis Independent Nation	<p>Appendix I Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Record of Consultation with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.</li> <li>2. Letter from Red Sky Métis Independent Nation re: the preliminary preferred route. February 15, 2023.</li> </ol>



Reflected in the record of consultation with GLP and member communities in **Appendix I**, Hydro One has maintained regular engagement with all levels of the GLP. Hydro One, the GLP and the member communities engage through:

- Waasigan Project Partner Committee meetings (quarterly);
- Providing presentations at GLP board meetings (upon invitation);
- GLP Environmental Protection Committee meetings (upon invitation);
- Ongoing communication with GLP staff and consultants (daily/weekly)
  - Weekly Project Management meeting with GLP staff and Hydro One Project Managers
  - Biweekly Environmental team meetings between Pinchin/Encompass Environmental, Maawandoon and Hydro One, and
- Direct outreach to member communities for community-specific follow up and standard notifications.

A number of notifications from Hydro One related to the Project were shared to GLP communities through the GLP management team. These included notifications to member First Nations such as announcing the selection of the contractor for the Project, and sharing updates regarding selection of the preferred route were provided to member communities through GLP. As well, GLP facilitated the approach to IK data collection and sharing for member communities, as well as coordinating input to Project assessment documents, such as the Stage 1 archaeological assessment. Accordingly, the high degree of input and engagement with GLP supplements the engagement notes directly with member communities.

Support for the GLP is provided by their consultants, as follows:

- Project management/implementation: NorthVista Advisors;
- IK coordination and engagement: Maawandoon Inc.; and
- Environmental support: Encompass Environmental (as of 2023), formerly supported by Pinchin Ltd.

Similarly, Hydro One and Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, as a partner community, engage through:

- Waasigan Project Partner Committee meetings (as needed to support Project decision-making);
- Project presentations and updates to Chief and Council; and
- Ongoing communication with community staff and leadership.





## 4.0 Ongoing Engagement

---

Hydro One will continue to work with stakeholders, landowners and Indigenous communities to resolve issues and address comments received in writing through the review period on the Final EA Report.

A project of this type may operate for a long period of time and it is Hydro One's intention to engage Indigenous communities and Project stakeholders based on foundations of respect, cooperation and open communication on a long-term basis with the intent of building mutually beneficial relationships.





**[hydroone.com](http://hydroone.com)**