



WELCOME

**POWERING  
NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**



# PURPOSE OF TODAY'S COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

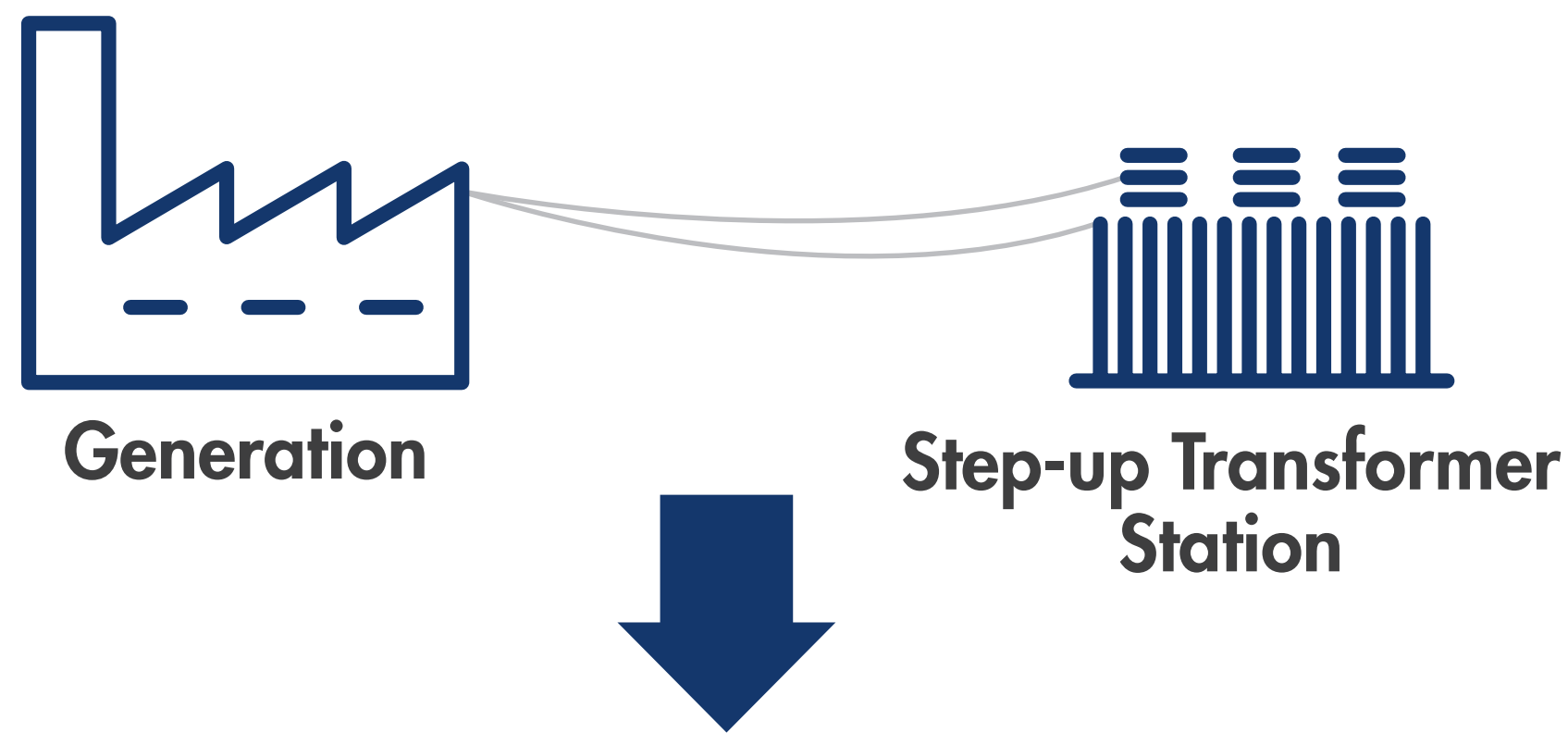
- Provide an update on the Waasigan Transmission Line Project.
- Discuss where we are in the environmental assessment process and overall Project timeline.
- Share information about how a preferred route for the new line will be selected.
- Continue to gather your input on the project through discussion and comment.
- Answer questions about the Project.



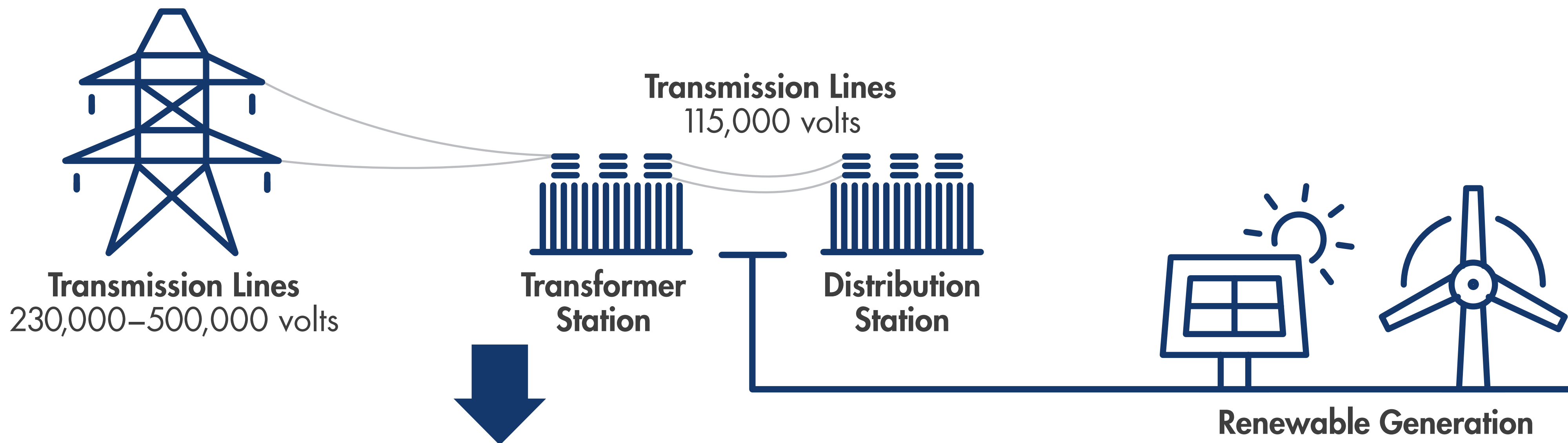


# HOW THE ELECTRICITY SYSTEM WORKS IN ONTARIO

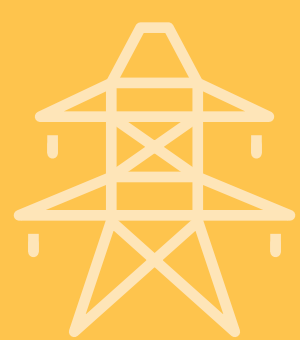
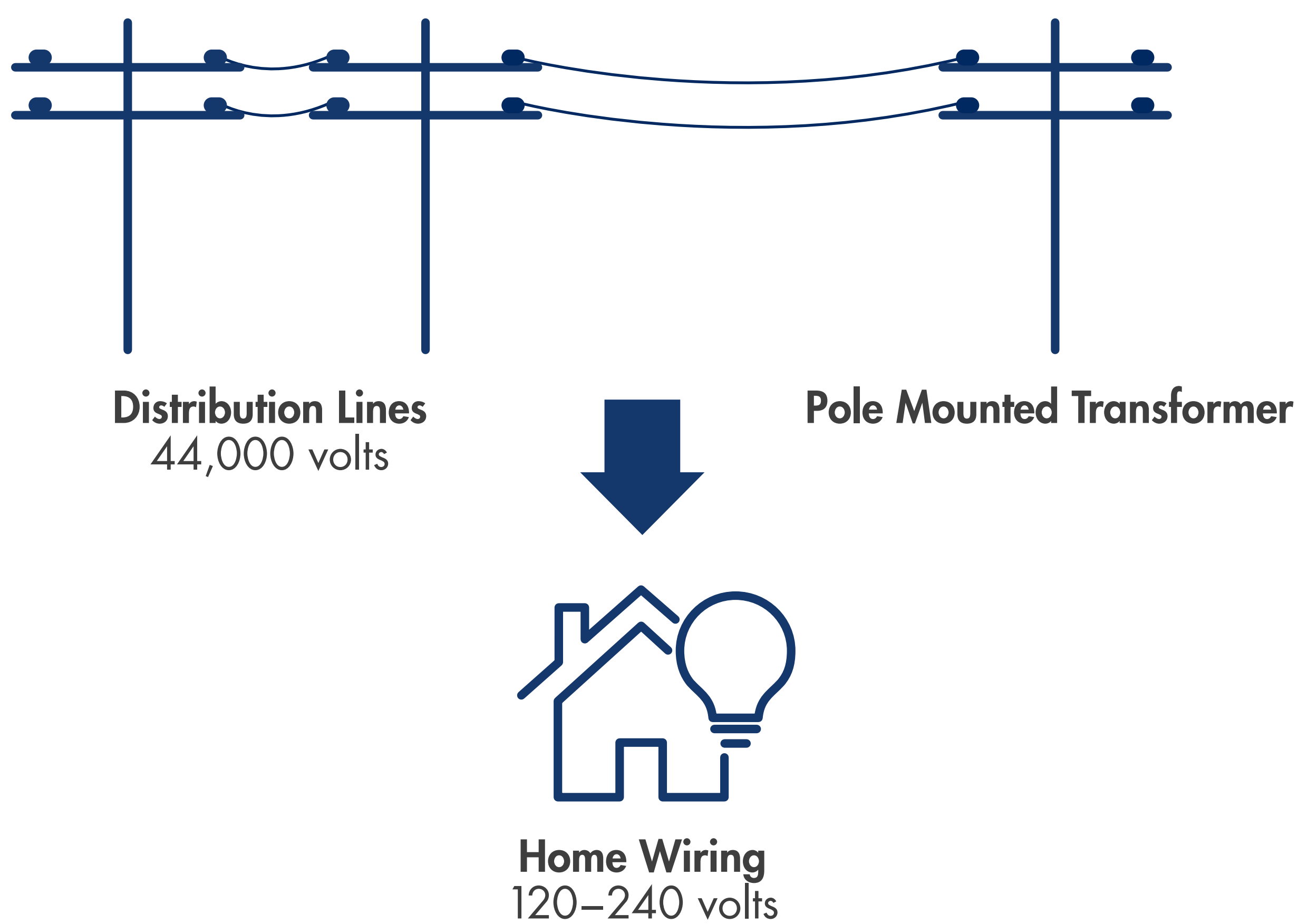
## ONTARIO POWER GENERATION AND PRIVATE GENERATION COMPANIES



## HYDRO ONE OR LICENSED TRANSMITTER



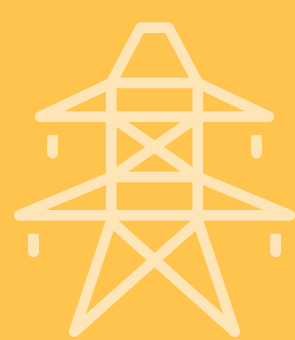
## HYDRO ONE OR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION COMPANY





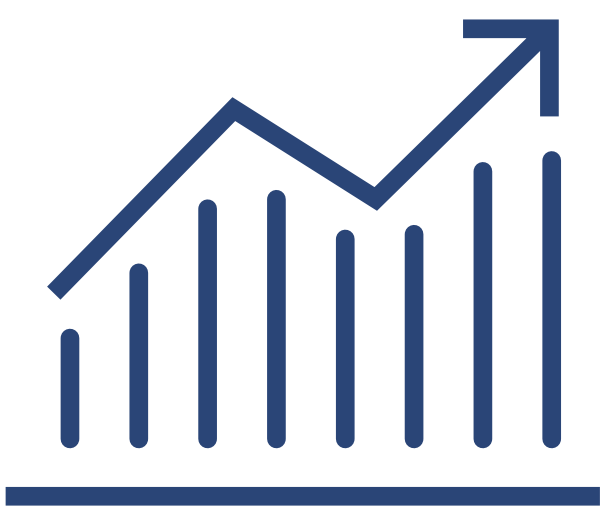
# WHAT IS THE WAASIGAN PROJECT?

- Waasigan 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.
- The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has asked Hydro One to place Phase 1 (Shuniah to Atikokan) in-service by the end of 2025 to support planned regional growth.
- The IESO will continue to monitor developments in the region and provide a targeted in-service date for Phase 2 (Atikokan to Dryden).
- The Waasigan Transmission Line is located in the traditional territories of the Treaty #3 and Robinson-Superior First Nations, and traverses the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community and Northern Lake Superior Métis Community.
- Hydro One is currently completing a comprehensive environmental assessment (EA) for the Project, under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*.

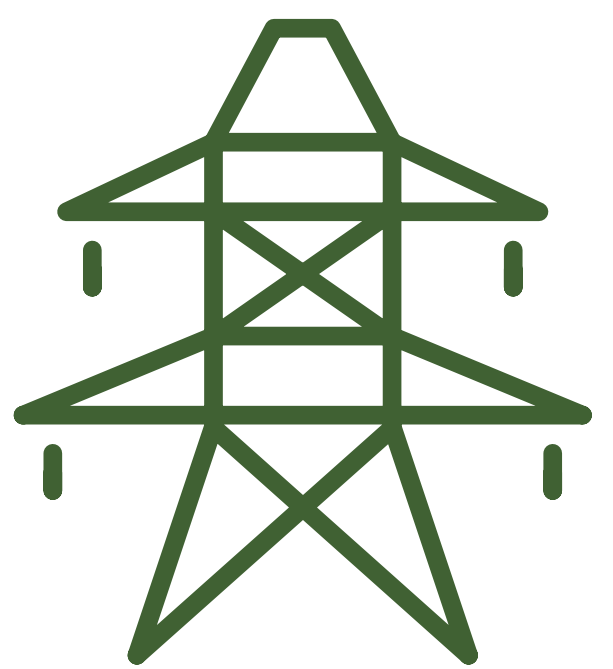




## REGIONAL BENEFITS



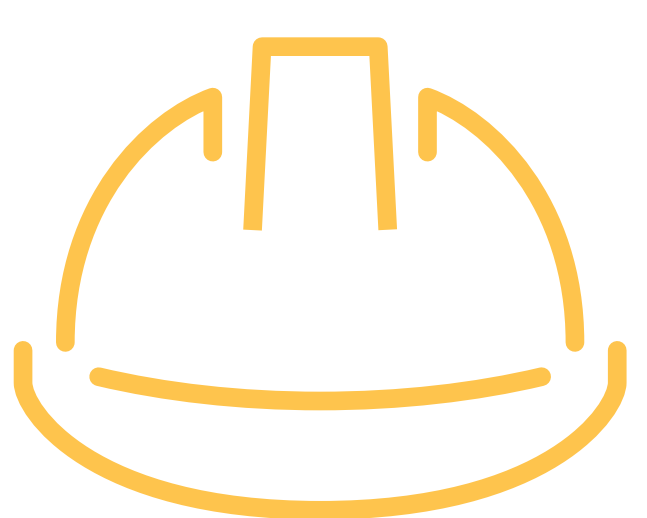
Supporting planned economic growth in northwestern Ontario.



Bringing an additional 350 megawatts of capacity to the region.



Creating participation and partnership opportunities with Indigenous communities.



Development of training, employment and business opportunities.





# STEPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT KICK-OFF

- Issue Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment.

## BASELINE DATA COLLECTION & SELECTION OF A PREFERRED ROUTE

- Describe existing environment using desktop information and field data.
- Complete an evaluation to select a preferred route.

## EFFECTS ASSESSMENT, MITIGATION & MONITORING

- Assess potential effects on the environment.
- Identify measures to avoid, minimize and offset adverse effects, while enhancing Project benefits.
- Develop a monitoring framework that considers all phases of the Project.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

- Submission of the Environmental Assessment report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for approval.

**Indigenous Community, Agency and Stakeholder Engagement**

**Sharing and Interweaving of Indigenous Knowledge**

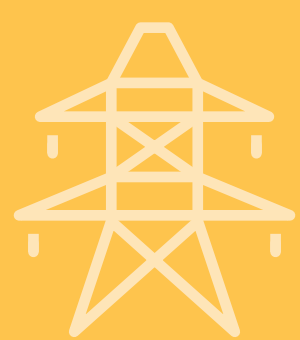




# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

## HERE ARE SOME OF THE MILESTONES WHEN WE WILL SHARE INFORMATION AND SEEK FEEDBACK:

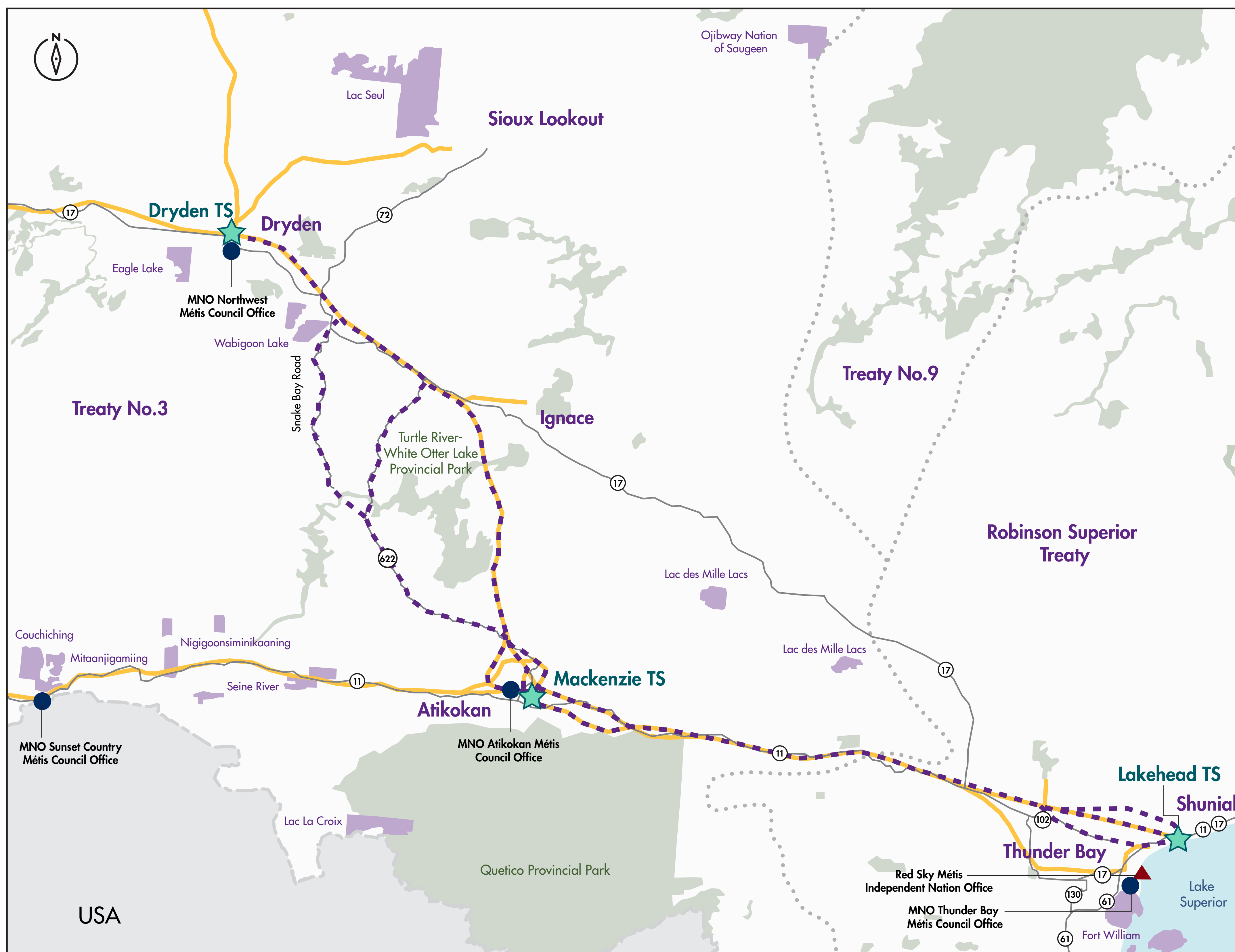
- Open houses to provide an overview of the Project and environmental assessment process and collect feedback on the alternative routes.
- Provide results of the alternative route evaluation, selection of the preferred route and gather input.
- Share results of the environmental assessment (e.g., effects assessment, and mitigation and monitoring commitments) and collect feedback.
- Review and comment on the draft environmental assessment report.



# ALTERNATIVE ROUTES











Alternative routes have been identified based on input and feedback from Indigenous communities, engagement with government agencies and the public, as well as technical considerations.

A preferred route that minimizes impacts to the environment will be selected through the environmental assessment.



## WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

### Map Legend

-  Existing Transformer Station (TS)
-  Alternative Routes
-  Existing Transmission Line
-  Highway
-  International Border
-  Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Office
-  Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Council Office
-  Treaty Boundary
-  First Nation Reserve
-  Provincial Park





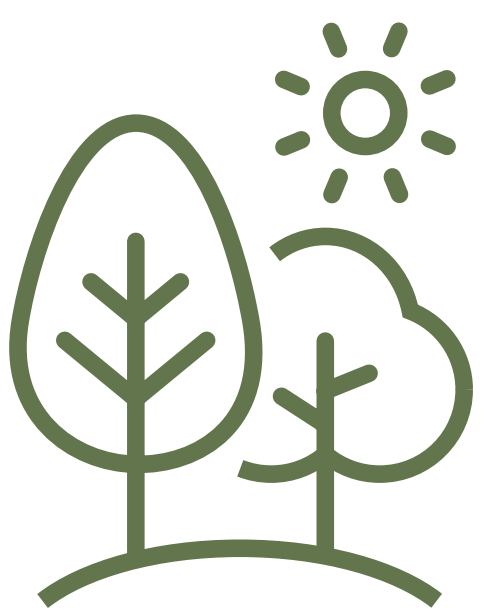


# SELECTING A PREFERRED ROUTE

An evaluation process will be used to compare the alternative routes, including these four categories:

## EVALUATION CATEGORIES

**Natural Environment**



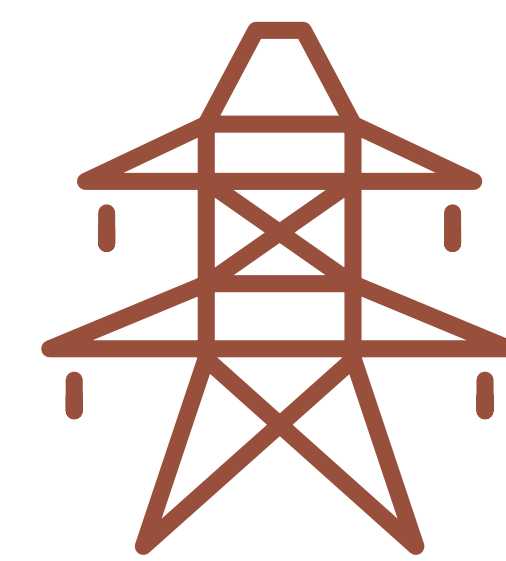
**Indigenous Community Values**



**Socio-Economic Environment**



**Technical And Cost**



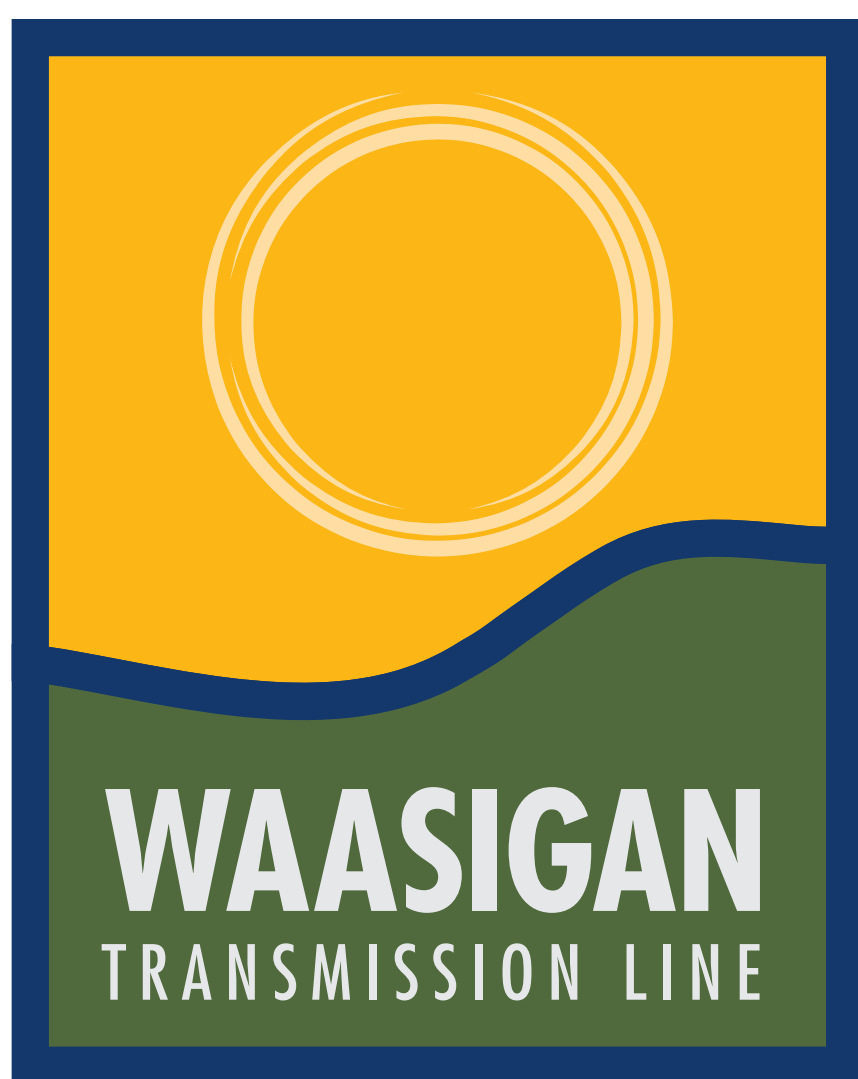
An evaluation framework will be created based on collected feedback and information.

The framework will include:

- Identifying evaluation criteria for each category; and
- Assigning a relative weight (level of importance) to each criterion.

Take a look at the Proposed Evaluation Criteria handout for more information!





# REAL ESTATE REQUIREMENTS

- Environmental field studies are being completed, which will help identify a preferred route. Temporary access rights are being requested to properties along all route options to complete these studies.
- Once a preferred route is selected, real estate requirements will be explored and dedicated Hydro One Land Agents will work with directly impacted property owners who have the proposed corridor on their property.
- To guide our conversations with directly impacted property owners, land acquisition principles tailored to the Waasigan project will be applied in a fair, open, consistent and transparent manner.

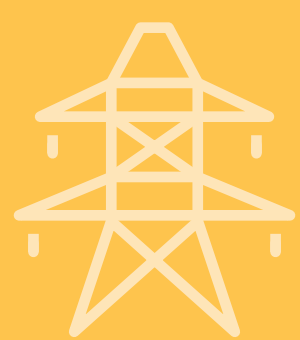




## THE ECI MODEL

- The Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) model is part of Hydro One's commitment to meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities for the design and development of the Waasigan Transmission Line.
- It is an early investment in project design and planning to ensure the best possible project results.
- Forbes Bros. Ltd. and Valard Construction LP are participating in the ECI process.
- Through this ECI model, the two contractors will ultimately compete for the award of the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract to develop and construct the Waasigan Transmission Line.

Working with two competing EPC contractors will generate more innovative and cooperative solutions to address the unique needs of the project.





# PROJECT TIMELINE

- Notice of Commencement of the Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment (**April 2019**)
- Consultation, data collection and development of corridor alternatives (**2019-2020**)
- Review and comment of the draft Terms of Reference (**June - August 2020**)
- Hydro One submitted a Terms of Reference to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for review and decision (**2020**)
- Amended Terms of Reference approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (**February 2022**)
- Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment (**March 2022**)
- Consultation and data collection on the environmental assessment, including identifying a preferred route (**2022 – 2023**)
- Review and comment of draft environmental assessment report, and submission of final report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (**2023**)
- Decision on the environmental assessment by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (**2024**)
- Hydro One ready to build the line, pending approvals (**2024**)



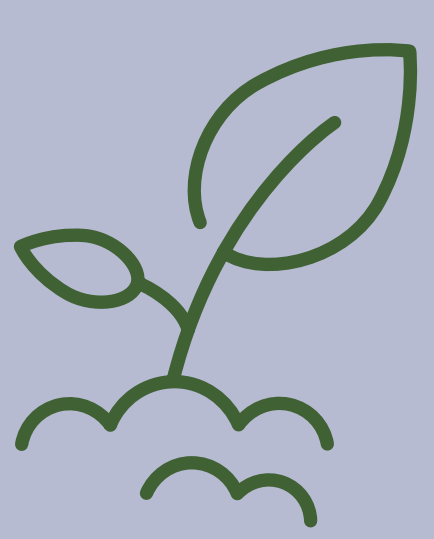
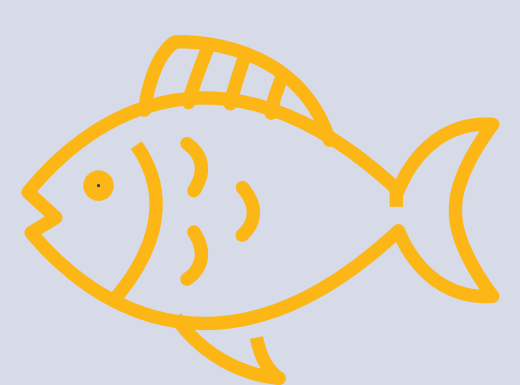


# FIELD SURVEYS

Field surveys allow us to describe existing environmental conditions.

The field program includes collection of data along all alternative routes to:

- Help inform the selection of a preferred route; and
- Identify and assess potential environmental effects from the project.

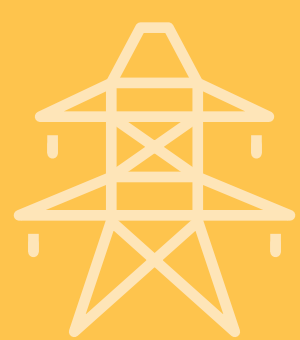
Field Survey Types	
<b>Terrestrial</b> 	<b>Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Animals such as migratory birds, species at risk and their habitat</li></ul> <b>Vegetation and Wetlands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Species at risk plants, rare species, invasive species and traditional use plants</li></ul>
<b>Aquatic</b> 	<b>Fish and Fish Habitat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fish species and their habitat, species at risk and sensitive features</li></ul> <b>Surface Water</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surface water quantity and quality</li></ul>





# INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

- Hydro One is providing capacity and opportunities for Indigenous communities to collect and share Indigenous Knowledge at key decision-making points during the environmental assessment process.
- Hydro One is working closely with communities to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and western science to assess the Project's potential impacts to Indigenous and treaty rights and interests.
- The collection and use of Indigenous Knowledge is extremely sensitive in nature and will be guided by the direction and values of the Indigenous communities who participate.





# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

## WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK TO HELP US ENSURE THE PROJECT BENEFITS YOUR COMMUNITY

Please provide your feedback by:

- Submitting a comment form
- Talking directly with members of the project team
- Completing our interactive survey <https://metroquestsurvey.com/Waasigan>

Please join our project contact list to stay up-to-date on upcoming engagement events and project updates.

**Hydro One Indigenous Relations**  
**1.877.345.6799 or [WaasiganIR@hydroone.com](mailto:WaasiganIR@hydroone.com)**  
**[www.hydroone.com/waasigan](http://www.hydroone.com/waasigan)**

 **HydroOne.com**

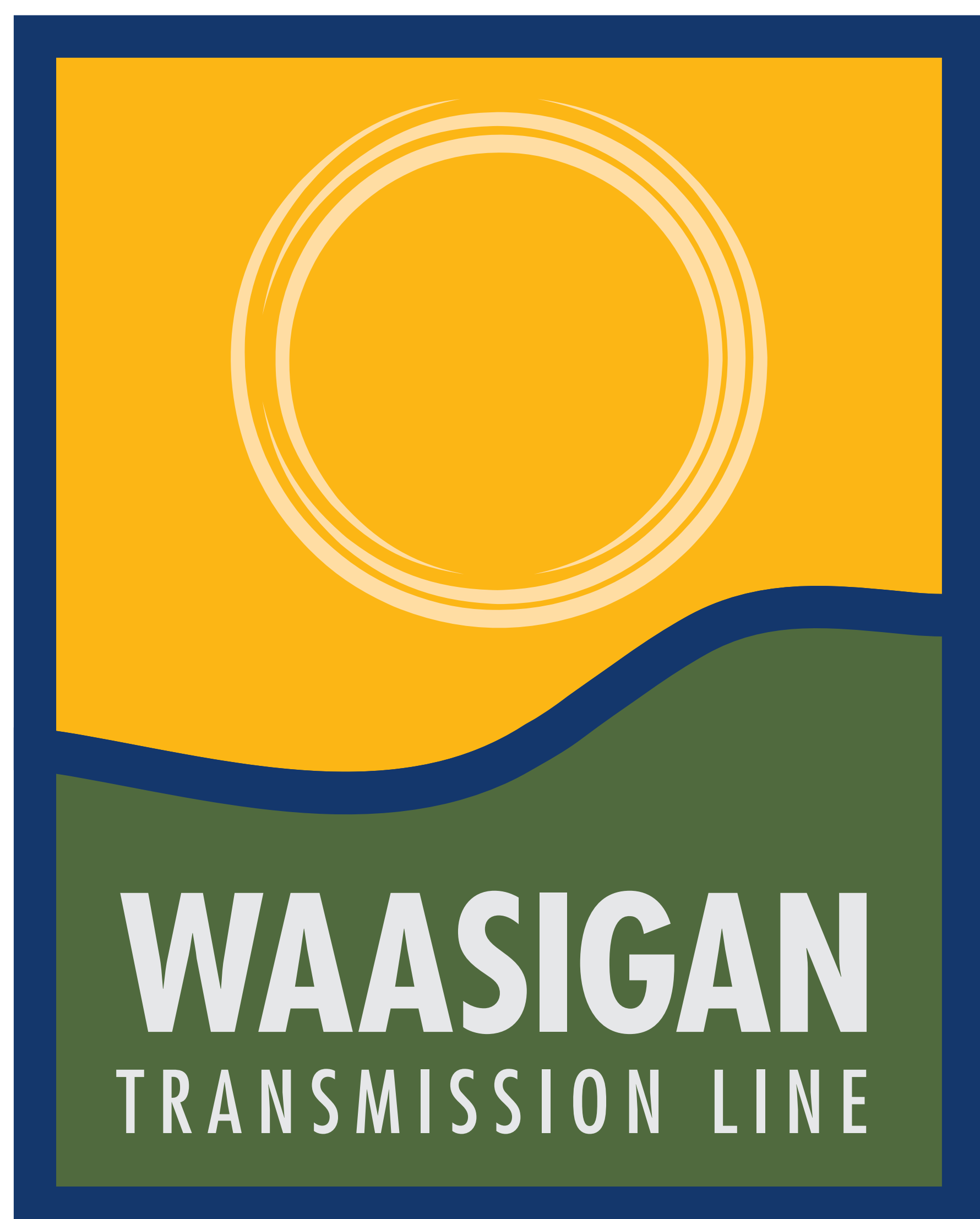
 **Power outages & emergencies**  
**1-800-434-1235**  
**24 hours/7 days**

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