



# Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AGENCY OF CANADA



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

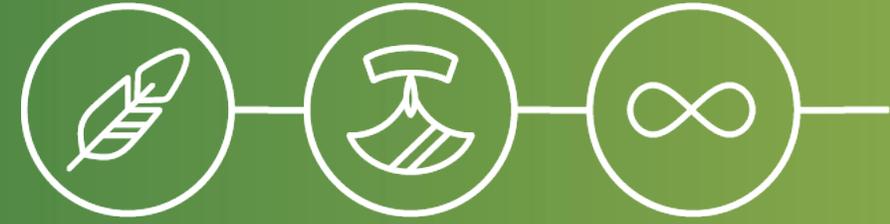
Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

Canada

# Session Overview

- The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the impact assessment process
- First comment period: Request for comments on the Initial Project Description by April 6, 2026
- Project overview
- Preliminary list of Valued Components
- Potential effect pathways
- Consultation and engagement approaches
- Next steps





# Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

WHO WE ARE



# Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)

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## Who are we?

- Federal agency reporting to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature

## Our responsibilities:

- Conducts federal impact assessments on major projects in Canada under the *Impact Assessment Act*
- Conducts Indigenous consultation and public engagement
- Works with the support of other federal departments
- Cooperates with provincial, territorial and Indigenous jurisdictions

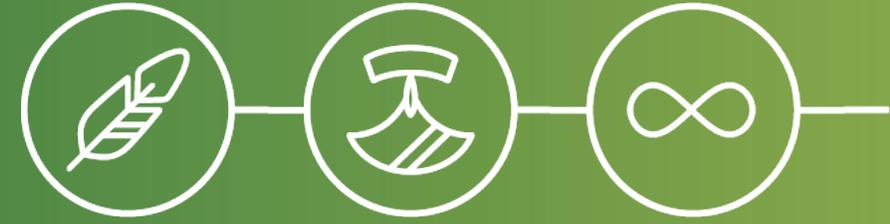


# Impact Assessment

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- A process that the federal government uses to make decisions on major development projects in Canada
- Looks at potential positive and negative effects of proposed projects
- Uses information and evidence from multiple sources (project proponent, government experts, Indigenous Peoples, the public, etc.)
- Identifies ways to mitigate potential harm and enhance positive impacts

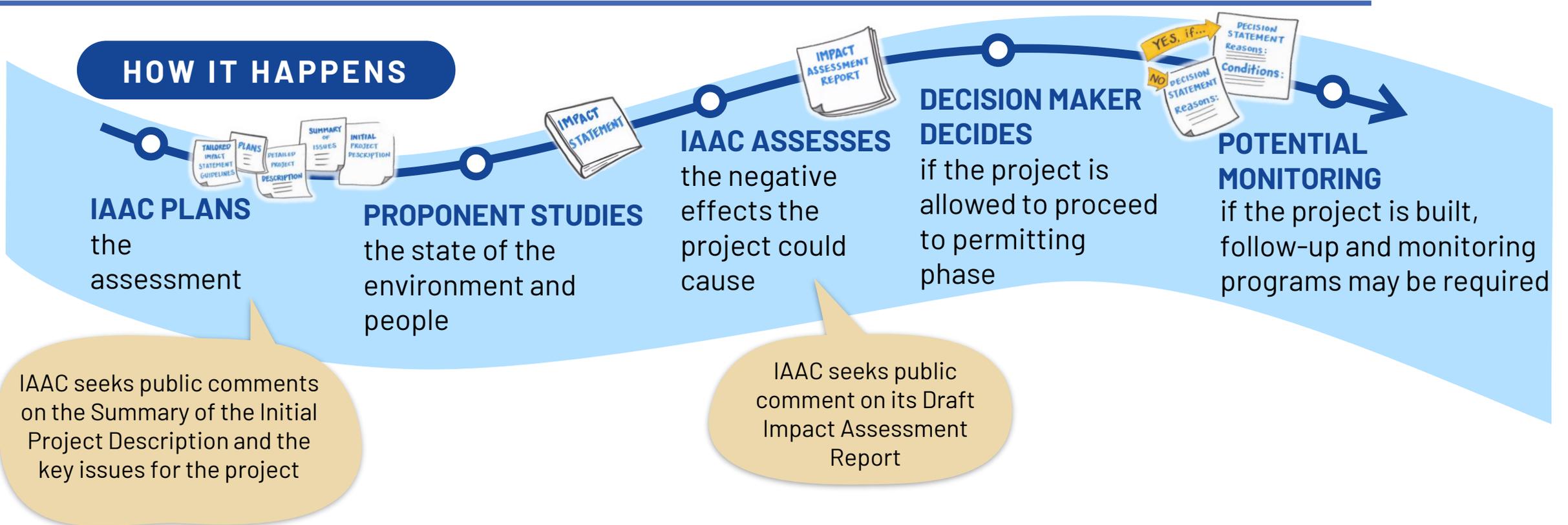


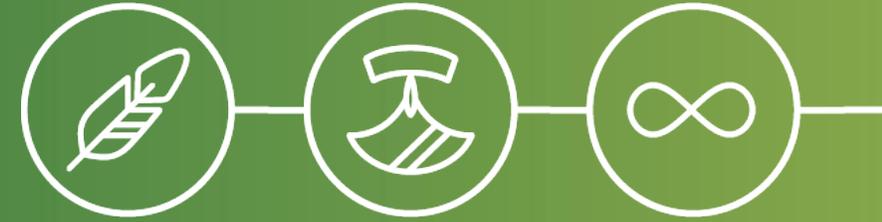


# Federal Impact Assessment Process



# Impact Assessment Process





# Public Comment Period on the Initial Project Description

MARCH 6 TO APRIL 6, 2026

# Documents available for review

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## Initial Project Description (IPD) / Summary of the IPD

- Provides a description of the project (e.g. location, existing conditions, potential adverse effects, and any federal, provincial, Indigenous or municipal involvement)

These documents are available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/89803?culture=en-CA>

Your comments will help inform IAAC's decision on whether an impact assessment is required under section 16(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*.



# IAAC is seeking your comments by April 06, 2026

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## Please comment on:

- Potential positive and/or adverse effects to your communities, including:
  - health, social, and economic conditions
  - physical and cultural heritage
  - current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes
  - physical and cultural heritage as well as any structure, site, or thing of historical, archeological, paleontological, or architectural significance
- Potential impacts of the project on your exercise of rights as recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*
- Your preferences and expectations of IAAC's consultation activities and the proponent's engagement activities for the project



# How to participate

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You can submit responses:

- By contacting IAAC directly at [Nottawasaga@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Nottawasaga@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)
- Via the **Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry)** website

The Registry is an information and participation tool to:

- Find information on the project
- Submit comments on the project
- Sign up for an automated mailing list

You can submit your comments and documents directly to the Registry using the **“Submit a comment”** function on the Registry project page:



# Canadian Impact Assessment Registry

Registry Menu Sign-in

Search by keyword(s) or reference number SEARCH

## Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project

The Port of Argenta is proposing to expand its existing Argenta Marine Terminal located in Placentia Bay, on the southeast coast of the island of Newfoundland. As proposed, the Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project would include the extension of the existing dock and wharf, as well as construction of a ramp to facilitate the movement of containers and cargo. The expanded facility would support anticipated future increases in shipping demand at the Port, which is expected to double by 2052.

Disclaimer

Location  
Placentia Bay (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Nature of Activity  
Ports and Harbours

Assessment Status  
In progress

Start Date  
2023-12-06

Proponent  
Port of Argenta

Authorities  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Assessment Type  
Planning Phase for Impact Assessment

Reference Number  
86128

Timeline

- Planning
- Impact Statement
- Impact Assessment
- Decision making
- Post Decision

Nearby assessments

Within 200 kilometres

Argenta Inspection Station - Roof Replacement  
Argenta

Wharf Reconstruction, Jernyside, Newfoundland  
Jernyside

Newman Sound Day Use Area, HV cable replacement  
Terre-Nova National Park of Canada

Latest update

December 6, 2023 — The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada is [Inviting Indigenous Peoples and the public](#) to review the summary of the Initial Project Description and provide feedback related to the proposed project by January 10, 2024. Comments received will be used to prepare the summary of issues.

Participate

Submit a Comment Training

Information Sessions Participant Funding

All Records

Registry Menu Sign-in

Search by keyword(s) or reference number SEARCH

## Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project

### Planning (Active)

About this comment period

Indigenous peoples, stakeholders and the public more broadly want to be aware of, and have the opportunity to be involved earlier in, project planning activities. We agree that assessments should begin with a planning phase that occurs before project design elements are finalized in order to develop effective engagement strategies and foster greater collaboration between proponents, Indigenous peoples, stakeholders, the public and the government. We must also work together so that early engagement provides clarity and certainty to support efficient review processes.

From 2023-12-06 to 2024-01-10

No related documents for this period.

**DISCLAIMER**

The use of this online submission tool is voluntary and subject to the [Terms of Use](#). To submit information or comments, you will need to confirm your identity via a secure sign-in method.

Information submitted via this tool must comply with the [Submission Policy](#) and should not contain confidential information or inappropriate content.

Refer to the contact information identified on the relevant assessment page to submit information via other means.

Submit a Comment View Existing Comments

# Confidentiality

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- Comments and other documents received by IAAC are published on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website as part of the project file
- Indigenous knowledge shared in confidence is protected from disclosure except in certain circumstances
- IAAC protects information submitted based on IAAC's Submission Policy. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice. If you do not want your comment posted on the Registry, please contact IAAC **prior** to submitting the comment.
  - Submission Policy: <https://iaacaeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>
  - Privacy Notice: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>



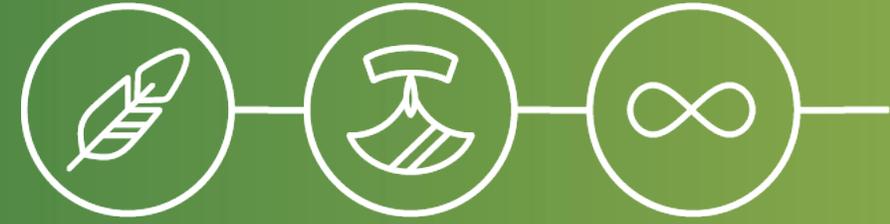
# Participant Funding

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To support both communities' participation in the Planning phase, IAAC is able to offer additional grant funding

- **\$10,000** in funding is available during the Planning phase
- Eligible activities and expenses:
  - Provide information to IAAC regarding potential impacts from the project
  - Review correspondence, attend meetings, travel and related work
  - Review and provide comments on the Initial Project Description
  - Review and/or contribute to Planning phase documents
- Please confirm your interest in grant funding **as soon as possible.**





# Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project

TRANSCANADA ENERGY LTD. (TC ENERGY)



# Project Overview and Context

**Location:** Located predominately on federal lands at the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Training Centre (4 CDTC), managed by DND in Meaford, Ontario

**Proponent:** TransCanada Energy Ltd. (TC Energy)

**Project:** Pumped storage hydropower facility

- Anticipated to provide 1,000 megawatts to Ontario's electricity system
- Stores surplus energy during low demand and provides energy during peak demand
- Predicted to operate for the foreseeable future with proper maintenance and equipment upgrades

**Context:**

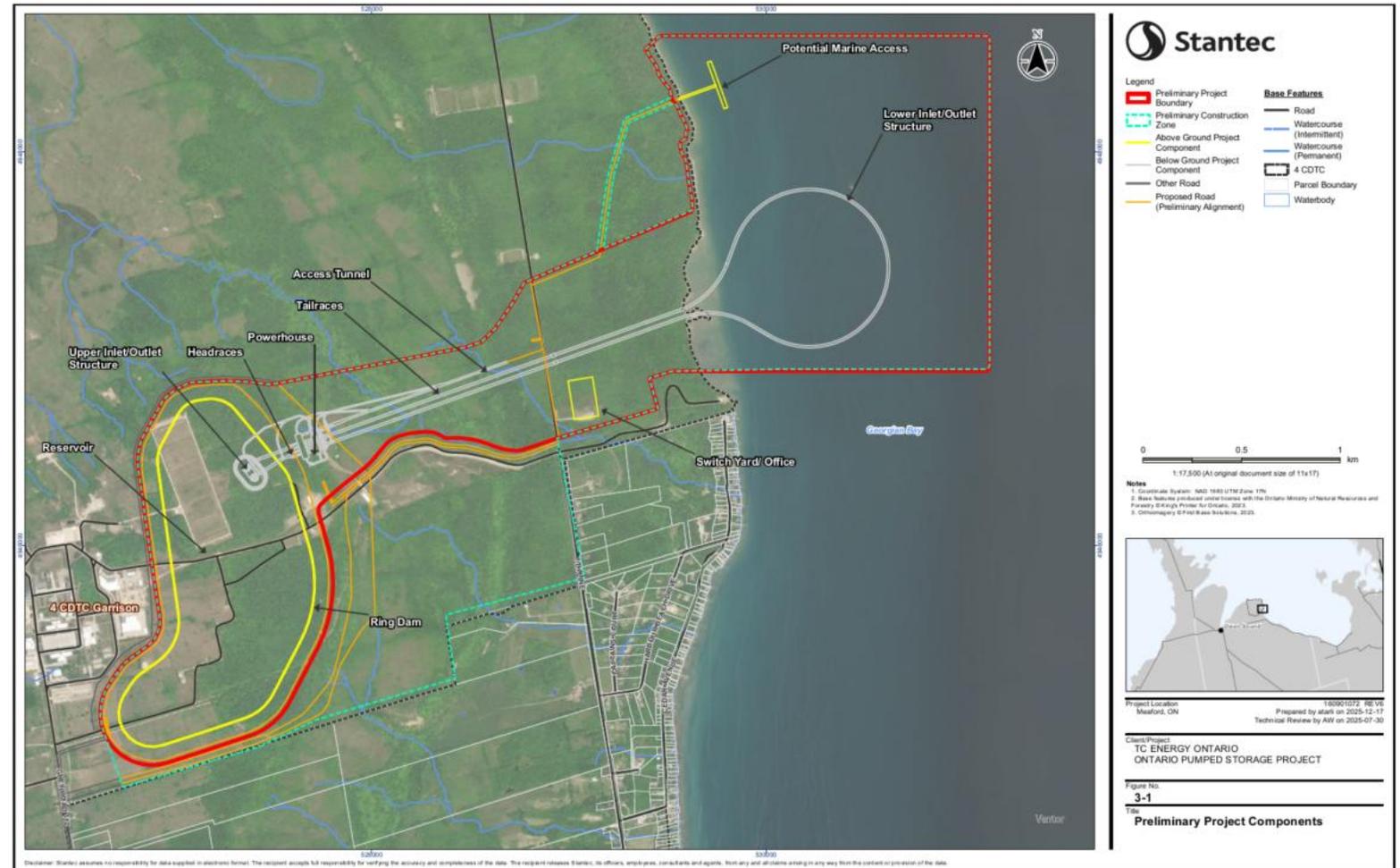
- Proposed as a new, clean energy storage solution to address the Independent Electricity System Operator's projected 75 percent growth in Ontario's energy and storage demand by 2050.

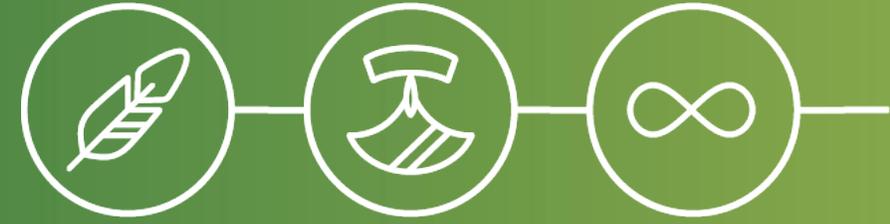


# Project Components

Main components include:

- Reservoir
- Powerhouse
- Water Conveyance Structures
- Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure
- Switchyard
- Access
- Temporary Construction Facility
- Transmission Connection





# Preliminary List of Valued Components



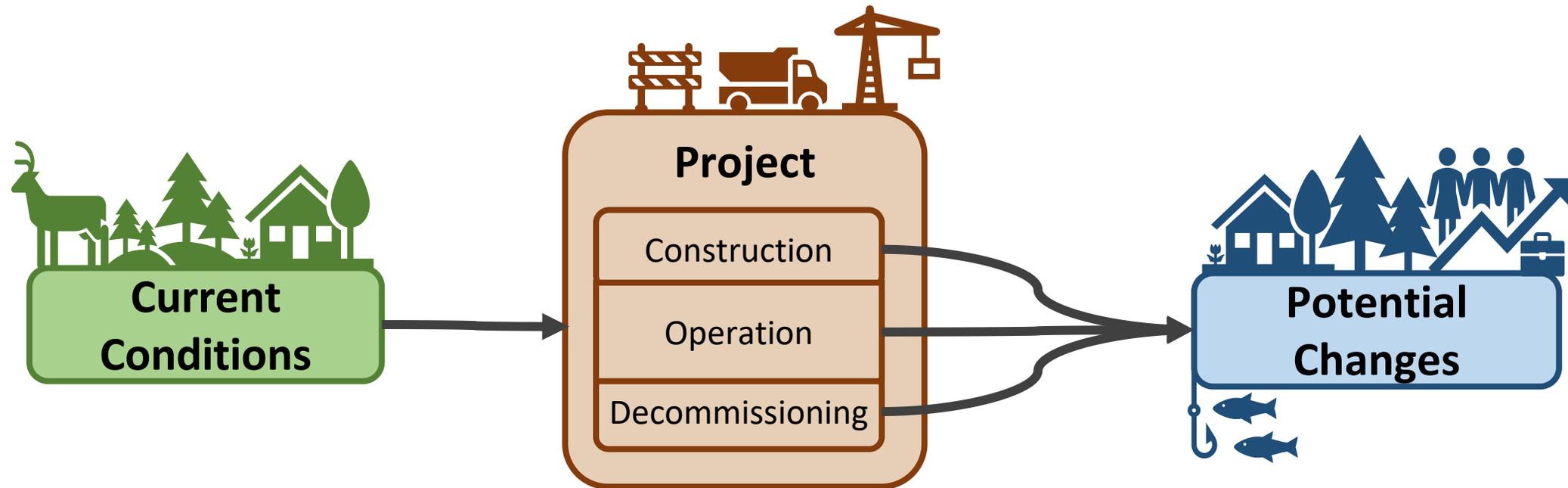
# What is a Valued Component?

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- **Valued components (VCs)** refer to elements of the human and natural environment that are within federal jurisdiction and important to participants in an impact assessment process.
- Valued components are identified by Indigenous communities, the public, federal authorities or proponents, or are known sensitive receptors (e.g. species at risk).
- They may have scientific, biological, social, cultural, economic, historical, archaeological or aesthetic importance, and may be intricately related to communities health-and well-being.



# Valued Components – Effect Pathway



The term **effect pathway** refers to the cause–effect linkage between a project and components of the human or natural environment.



# What do we do with Valued Components in Impact Assessments?

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Scoping - what needs to be studied, where and for how long?



Establishing relevant baseline and trend-over-time conditions



Effects pathways and prediction



Identifying enhancement or mitigation measures



Monitoring, follow-up and management of predicted effects

# Preliminary List of Potentially Impacted Valued Components

## Biophysical Environment

- Effects to **fish and fish habitat** due to potential:
  - changes to the Georgian Bay from operations, including water quality, temperature, changes in lake flow patterns; and
  - impingement and entrainment
- Effects to **federal species at risk and their habitat**
- Effects to **groundwater and surface water quantity and quality on and immediately adjacent to 4 CDTC**

## Human Environment

- Impacts to the **physical and cultural heritage** of Indigenous Peoples and **sites of archaeological importance**, focusing on:
  - potential archaeological resources on land or water; and
  - species of cultural importance
- Impacts to the **current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes**, including:
  - impacts to fishing and the exercise of the right to fish;
  - cumulative impacts; and
  - impacts through avoidance of the area below the reservoir due to perceived risk
- Impacts to people on and directly adjacent to 4 CDTC from changes to **air quality, noise and vibrations, and groundwater quality**
- **Economic impacts/benefits** for Indigenous Peoples

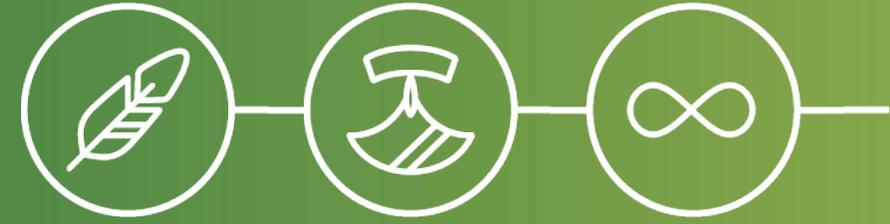
# Preliminary List of Valued Components Unlikely to have Significant Effects

## Biophysical Environment

- Effects to **wetlands** because loss will be minimal and will be managed through the *Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation*
- Effects to **migratory birds** because the geographic extent of effects will be minimal and can be managed under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- Effects to **terrestrial wildlife and vegetation not identified by Indigenous Peoples as important** because habitat loss will be minimal and are not considered sensitive receptors
- Effects to **fish habitat** which will be limited and managed through a *Fisheries Act* authorization
- Changes to **water levels in the Georgian Bay** are expected to be negligible

## Human Environment

- **Direct use of the lands and resources in the project footprint** as IAAC understands access is already restricted by DND
- Changes to the **visual environment** because of the project design changes the proponent has already implemented
- Impacts to the **Canadian Armed Forces** because DND will manage these through an Operational Impact Assessment
- Changes in **energy pricing** which is managed by the province of Ontario



# Potential Effects Pathways

FROM THE PROPONENT'S PRELIMINARY MATERIALS



# Potential Change – Surface Water Flow

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## **Change to the Environment:**

- Potential change to lake flow patterns (the movement of water within the lake) in the Georgian Bay from operation of the inlet/outlet structure may cause a change in fish populations

## **Potential Impact to Indigenous Peoples:**

- Potential impact to fishing and the right to fish in this area of the Georgian Bay

## **Input Requested:**

- Do your communities harvest fish in the Georgian Bay, and where?
- Are there any fish species of importance to your communities that you fish in the Georgian Bay?

# Potential Change – Fish Mortality

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## **Change to the Environment:**

- Potential death of fish in the Georgian Bay due to impingement/entrainment (fish getting stuck in intakes) during operations of the inlet/outlet structure if appropriate mitigation cannot be identified

## **Potential Impact to Indigenous Peoples:**

- Potential impact to fishing and the exercise of the right to fish in the Georgian Bay

## **Input Requested:**

- Do your communities harvest fish in this area of the Georgian Bay, and where?
- Are there any fish species of importance to your communities that you fish in this area of the Georgian Bay?



# Potential Change – Spawning Grounds

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## **Change to the Environment:**

- Potential change to Lake whitefish and Lake trout spawning habitat in the Georgian Bay from project construction and operations.

## **Potential Impact to Indigenous Peoples:**

- Potential impact to fishing and the exercise of the right to fish in the Georgian Bay

## **Input Requested:**

- Do your communities harvest Lake whitefish or Lake trout in this area of the Georgian Bay?
- Are your communities aware of any spawning habitat in the vicinity of the project in the Georgian Bay?



# Potential Change – Surface Water Quality

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## **Change to the Environment:**

- Potential change to the quality (i.e., temperature and contaminant levels) of the water in the Georgian Bay during operations from the inflow and outflow of water from the reservoir

## **Potential Impact to Indigenous Peoples:**

- Potential impact to fishing and the exercise of the right to fish in the Georgian Bay

## **Input Requested:**

- Do your communities harvest fish in the Georgian Bay, and where?
- Are there any fish species of importance to your communities that you fish in the Georgian Bay?



# Potential Change – Groundwater Flow

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## **Change to the Environment:**

- Potential local change in groundwater flow surrounding the reservoir, within and directly adjacent to 4 CDTC

## **Potential Impact to Indigenous Peoples:**

- Potential impact to fishing and the exercise of the right to fish adjacent to the reservoir

## **Input Requested:**

- Do your communities harvest fish in any rivers directly adjacent to the reservoir?
- Are there any fish species of importance to your communities in the rivers directly adjacent to the reservoir?



# Potential Change – Soil & Groundwater Quality

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## **Change to the Environment:**

- Potential change to groundwater and soil quality surrounding the reservoir due to storage of water in the reservoir

## **Potential Impact to Indigenous Peoples:**

- Potential impacts to health from changes in drinking water quality
- Potential impact to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes

## **Input Requested:**

- Do your communities use any areas directly adjacent to the reservoir for drinking water?



# Potential Change – Accident/Malfunction

## Change to the Environment:

- Potential for dam breach or related accident or malfunction that may cause avoidance of the area directly adjacent and/or below the reservoir due to perceived risk

## Potential Impact to Indigenous Peoples:

- Potential impact to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes

## Input Requested:

- Do your communities practice in the area adjacent to or below the reservoir?



# Potential Change – Physical and Cultural Heritage

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## **Change to the Environment:**

- Potential impact to physical and cultural heritage or things of historical or archaeological importance from project construction

## **Potential Impact to Indigenous Peoples:**

- Potential impacts to physical and cultural heritage or structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological or paleontological importance

## **Input Requested:**

- Are you aware of any sites or things of importance to your communities that are within or close to the project area and may be impacted by the project?



# Unlikely Impacts to Indigenous Peoples

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**IAAC does not anticipate that changes to wildlife populations, wildlife habitat, or wildlife species at risk will impact Indigenous Peoples' current use of lands and resources or physical and cultural heritage.**

- Habitat loss due to project construction is expected to be minimal and primarily confined to an area where access is already restricted
- Population level effects are not anticipated
- Any effects to species at risk will be managed through a permit under the *Species at Risk Act* by Environment and Climate Change Canada

This information is based on general conclusions regarding wildlife and may not apply to specific species identified as important by Indigenous communities.





# Consultation and Engagement Approaches

HOW SHOULD IAAC AND THE PROPONENT WORK WITH YOUR COMMUNITIES?

# Planning for a Focused Assessment

If an impact assessment is required, IAAC will post final versions of the following planning documents with the Notice of Commencement:

Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines	Outlines information IAAC requires from the proponent and considers necessary for the conduct of the impact assessment
Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan	Describes how Indigenous communities will be consulted or engaged throughout the impact assessment process
Public Participation Plan	Outlines how the public will be engaged throughout the impact assessment process
Cooperation Plan	Describes how IAAC will work with other jurisdictions throughout the impact assessment process
Permitting Plan	Outlines the anticipated permits, licenses and authorizations required for the project

IAAC is seeking your input to inform development of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.



# Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan

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The Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP) is a document that outlines:

- The objectives of IAAC's consultation on the project and its potential impacts
- Which Indigenous communities will be consulted or engaged by IAAC
- IAAC's methods and approach for consultation and engagement throughout the impact assessment process

To inform IAAC's development of the IEPP, we are seeking your input to understand your communities' preferences for participating in the project's assessment.



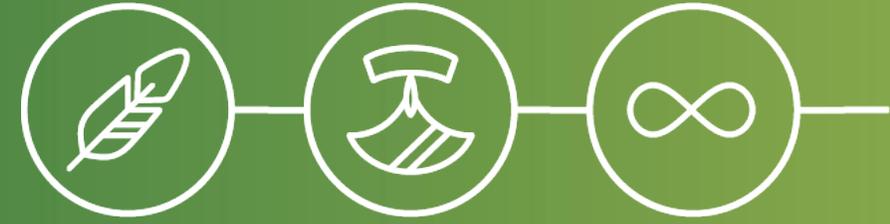
# Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan

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IAAC is seeking your communities' input on the following:

- How do communities wish to participate in IAAC's assessment for this project?
- Do you have any preferences for consultation or engagement that IAAC should be aware of? This may include:
  - Meeting format, frequency, or participation
  - Any times during the year that your communities are less available to participate in the assessment
  - How information is shared with you
- Do the communities have consultation protocols or frameworks IAAC should be considering in working with you on the project?





# Next Steps



# Next Steps

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- The Comment Period on the Initial Project Description is from **March 06, to April 06, 2026**
- IAAC will develop a **Summary of Issues**, based on the comments received
- The proponent will submit a response to the Summary of Issues
- IAAC will determine whether an impact assessment is required

If IAAC determines that a federal impact assessment is required, your input will help IAAC prepare the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.

**IAAC will continue working with you throughout the assessment, according to your preferences**



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Merci

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Thank you

Tshinashkumitin

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