

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PROJECT ENGAGEMENT 101

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Providing clarity on the new Federal Impact Assessment Process, Canada Nickel's parallel engagement strategy, and what this means for communities

Guide to the Federal Impact Assessment Process

The Federal Impact Assessment Process, led by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC or Agency), is the new regulatory process under which major projects are assessed. This process is distinct from provincial assessment processes.

Compared to previous major project environmental reviews, the new federal process focuses heavily on Indigenous participation, early planning of a project's design, and the environmental and social impacts of a project through the lens of a gender-based analysis (GBA+).

Objectives

The **Impact Assessment** is a planning and decision-making tool used by regulators, communities, stakeholders, Indigenous groups, and proponents to assess the positive and negative impacts of a project.

PURPOSE

To foster sustainability through a fair, predictable, and efficient process that encourages awareness and trust through meaningful public and Indigenous engagement.

Throughout the Impact Assessment process, in support of this purpose, Canada Nickel is committed to:

- Conducting early, ongoing, and proactive engagement that is tailored to the community's interests and expectations
- Taking project decisions per stakeholder and Indigenous feedback obtained from a plurality of perspectives within the communities, including with groups that are not often involved in major project review processes.
- Sharing public, nuanced, and summarized project information that transparently addresses issues, concerns, opportunities, and solutions

Canada Nickel's Crawford Project will trigger the Federal Impact Assessment Process as it meets the criteria of being a new metal mine with an ore production capacity of 5,000 t/day or more



Contact Us

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PHASE 1: PLANNING

REGULATORY DOCUMENTS

A proponent develops an Initial Project Description and Detailed Project Description, with input from Indigenous and stakeholder communities, which are then submitted to the Agency.

- Initial Project Description
- Detailed Project Description
- Public Participation Plan
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Impact Assessment Cooperation Plan
- Permitting Plan
- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines

What does this mean for you?

Communities are invited to participate in Canada Nickel- and Agency-led engagement activities to provide feedback on the early planning of the Crawford Project's design, anticipated impacts, and planned mitigation measures.

PHASE 2: IMPACT STATEMENT

The Agency provides the proponent with Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, a document that details what is to be included in the proponent's Impact Statement.

- Notice of Commencement
- Impact Statement
- Notice of Determination

What does this mean for you?

Communities are invited to review and share feedback on the Impact Statement, while continuing to be engaged by Canada Nickel and the Agency.

PHASE 3: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proponent submits its Impact Statement to the Agency, which considers the project's potential positive and negative environmental, health, social, and economic impacts. The Agency drafts an Impact Assessment Report.

- Impact Assessment
- Impact Assessment Report
- Potential Conditions

What does this mean for you?

Communities are consulted by Canada Nickel and the Agency on an ongoing basis throughout the Impact Assessment Phase.

PHASE 4: DECISION MAKING

The Minister or Governor-in-Council determines if the proponent's project is in the public's interest, per the results of the Impact Assessment Report and the Agency's consultation activities.

- Decision Statement

What does this mean for you?

The final decision will factor in all Indigenous and public feedback provided to Canada Nickel and the Agency.

PHASE 5: POST DECISION

The Agency will verify compliance with the Decision Statement and any conditions, and conduct follow-up and monitoring programs.

What does this mean for you?

Communities will continue to be engaged by Canada Nickel, with opportunities to provide feedback on the implementation of follow-up and monitoring programs.

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