

NORTHERN ROAD LINK NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 | September 2022

PROGRESS & UPDATES

Progress and updates since the last Northern Road Link (NRL) Newsletter include:

- Ongoing responses to the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) comments
- Ongoing 2022 field studies
- Extension of ToR public review to December 14, 2022

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Submission of formal Initial Project Description (IPD) to the Agency
- Ongoing 2022 field surveys
- Ongoing meetings and presentations with Indigenous Communities regarding the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program
- Livestream and radio shows to resume in October
- Responses to ToR comments



Attawapiskat River

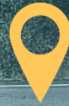
Fall/Winter 2022

Ongoing Engagement, IK Program, Field Studies, and Submission of IPD and DPD



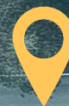
Winter/Spring 2023

Start Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment



Spring 2023

Public and Indigenous community open houses



COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

Webequie First Nation



Webequie First Nation is one of the 2 Indigenous proponent communities, located just over 500 kilometers north of Thunder Bay, and is a growing Ojibway community of over 900 members¹. The Ojibway word “Webequie” means “shaking head from side to side,” which comes from a story that observes a Common Merganser trying to take flight. The merganser can be found on the Webequie First Nation logo. Currently, this community has no year-round road access. It is only accessible through air travel. The region offers some of the best wilderness tourism in northern Ontario, including hunting and fishing. Just don’t forget to pack your rubber boots and fishing rod!

NRL Impacts on Webequie

Chief Cornelius Wabasse of Webequie First Nation shared a video message² explaining the benefits of the NRL to their community.

A permanent road to Webequie would provide access and opportunity to develop better roads, housing, communication systems, and services. Chief Wabasse mentioned that his community experiences overcrowded buildings and high demand on health infrastructure. Currently, there are limited healthcare professionals that are able to travel to Webequie. The road development would provide better access for these services and infrastructure improvements.

Chief Wabasse will ensure that the environmental assessment will take into account the Project impacts on the environment and way of life of Webequie and surrounding First Nation communities.

“The purpose of trying to develop the North is for our communities to prosper as we develop and make sure that we have the real benefits for our community.”

- Chief Wabasse, 2021



Common Merganser
Photo Credit: Jon Pleizier, 2022



Wolverine Tracks
(*Gulo gulo*)



Helicopter

CONTACT INFORMATION

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1. <http://www.webequie.ca/>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bynLJmjUABA>