

October 10, 2024

Hon. Steven Guilbeault  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario

Rachelle Lalonde  
Senior Consultation Advisor  
Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario

Hon. Steven Guilbeault and Rachelle Lalonde,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the lack of in-person community engagements to discuss on the draft terms of reference for the Co-Led Regional Assessment in the ring of fire area.

As a member of the Attawapiskat First Nation, it is disappointing to see that the voices of the Kattawapiskak People will not be heard, and their input will not be considered on the draft terms of reference. It is essential that the community's input, comments, and concerns are central to the development of the terms of reference which help guide the Co-Led Regional Assessment.

By this concern, I'm officially requesting that the deadline for the submission of comments be extended to October 31, 2024. As mentioned before, this extension is crucial as at this time of the year, many community members are focused on the Fall Harvest and considering it's the long weekend.

I remind the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, by not extending the deadline will exclude the true voices of the community on the early stages from the "Co-Led Regional Assessment" process, and this will have a detrimental impact on our Nation, as the community is downstream from all the proposed developments and non-stop exploration activities.

Again, I urge you to extend the deadline to October 31, 2024, to ensure that the community members will have an opportunity to have their input, and not just from the legal counsel.

Thank you,

Mr. Charles Hookimaw  
Community Member of Kattawapiskak  
Attawapiskat, ON