

# PROJECT UPDATE

## Waasigan Transmission Line Project



*The Waasigan Transmission Line 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 transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden.*

### MARCH 2021

#### Terms of Reference Status

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) submitted a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project in October 2020 to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), as required under the Government of Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. Comments received from Indigenous communities and stakeholders were incorporated into the proposed ToR which is currently under review by the MECP.



#### Early Contractor Involvement (ECI)

Hydro One has implemented an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) procurement model for the Waasigan Project. The ECI model allows two qualified Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractors to be engaged early in the Project lifecycle. Valard Construction LP and Forbes Bros Ltd. have been selected. Both companies will use their knowledge and experiences in collaborative, community-based planning to help develop Project design opinions and plans for the next development phase of the Project. The EPCs, together with Hydro One, will also engage with Indigenous communities in the coming months to discuss opportunities and approaches to employment, procurement, subcontracting, and training during the construction phase.

## Waasigan Training and Skills Development Program (TSDP)

The Project is seeking individuals interested in participating in Module 2 of our Training and Skills Development Program (TSDP). As you may know, the TSDP is designed to develop local Indigenous communities' skills and capacity in support of the Waasigan Project, with the intent that the skills gained from this training can be applied to other future projects of similar nature. Participants will learn about general health and safety practices and field skills, environmental monitoring techniques and field studies that are required as part of the environmental assessment process. Module 2 is ideal for anyone interested in learning more about the natural environment and those interested in employment opportunities for the Project (please note that completion of this training will not guarantee employment and participants will be required to submit a resume for positions advertised). As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, community policies and recommendations by the province on gathering will guide the timing for the in-person training components of Module 2 of the TSDP. Please talk to your Waasigan Community Engagement Coordinator or Hydro One contact listed below if you are interested in keeping informed on this program.

### Employment Opportunities

Are you interested in developing your skills and have interest or experience in environmental work that you wish to share as part of the Waasigan Project team? Golder Associates Ltd., supporting Hydro One on the environmental assessment for the Waasigan Project, will be offering short-term contract positions for future field surveys. Please talk to your Waasigan Community Engagement Coordinator or Hydro One contact listed below if you are interested in keeping informed on future opportunities. Participation in Module 2 of the TSDP is an asset, but not required.



Look for further Project updates in the coming months related to Indigenous knowledge/traditional land and resource use studies, upcoming field study plans and employment, status of environmental assessment activities and other Project updates. We are committed to providing opportunities for feedback and employment, developing partnerships, and to ensure your interests are incorporated into Project planning. Please contact us to join the Project contact list.

For further information, please contact your Waasigan Community Engagement Coordinator, see the Project website at: [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan) or reach out to Tausha Esquega, Sr. Advisor, Indigenous Relations, Hydro One Networks Inc. at: [Tausha.Esquega@HydroOne.com](mailto:Tausha.Esquega@HydroOne.com).