



# Town of Atikokan

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October 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

In regard to the proposed Waasigan Power line, the Town of Atikokan is in full support of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of this project.

Northwestern Ontario is on the verge of expansion with the exploration, mining and refining of critical minerals that are required to move the energy sector forward. As several other high profile mining opportunities have either been green-lit, or nearing completion, the need for reliable electricity is increasing rapidly. With these exciting opportunities to electrify the north and grow our communities, the need for a strong reliable distribution system has never been greater.

The partnership struck with the Indigenous communities is a positive step toward reconciliation and gives these communities much needed employment and financial opportunity. As we all know all too well, Ontario will need a bigger and better distribution system to meet the ever-growing demand.

The Town of Atikokan is centrally located in the Northwest and is looking forward to being a hub to assist in this distribution opportunity. The Town has had numerous open house sessions sponsored by Hydro One which has kept the municipality, our residents, and stakeholders well informed of the project and has done it's very best to answer any questions and alleviate any concerns. As Mayor, I have not received any negative feedback from my constituents regarding this project, but to the contrary, all feedback has been positive in nature. In closing, the Town of Atikokan is in full support of the Waasigan Project, both Phase 1 and Phase 2.

It is our recommendation that these two projects be completed back-to-back or even jointly to minimize delays and would surely be more economical for the ratepayers. Please receive this letter as the Town's full endorsement of the project.

Best Regards,

Mayor Rob Ferguson

cc: Atikokan Town Council