

# Mushkegowuk Lands and Resources

# External Experts Group

# On Impact Assessment

## Terms of Reference

### Background

Mushkegowuk Lands and Resources is looking to establish an external impact assessment practitioner group (‘External Experts Group’) to support the implementation of its Indigenous Capacity Support Program (ICSP). This program aims to support Mushkegowuk Council’s coastal communities in land-based and impact assessment-related developments, particularly in the preparation for the Ring of Fire Regional Assessment. Currently, several activities are planned to support Mushkegowuk communities in developing capacity. These include developing and delivering:

- An impact assessment information toolkit, and information HUB
- An impact assessment certification program
- Community capacity building training

Mushkegowuk Lands and Resources aims to develop these tools and resources collaboratively with a diverse group of Omushkego knowledge holders called, the “Omushkego Advisory Group” and the “External Experts Group”. The goal of this collaboration is to develop these tools and resources throughout 2024/25 that can be strengthened and delivered within the Mushkegowuk coastal communities throughout the ICSP program period that runs until 2028.

### Why an External Experts Group is needed

While Mushkegowuk Council has a strong group of knowledge holders to support impact assessment activities, we are looking to expand the breadth of our planned capacity support material by working with external practitioners who hold existing knowledge on diverse impact assessment topics. Because the Ring of Fire is the first Regional Assessment in the Mushkegowuk region, collaboration with the External Experts Group will be crucial for our members to be able to apply existing regional and impact assessment experience and capacity building strategies to our regional context.

## Types of practitioners needed

Mushkegowuk Council is looking for 5 experienced impact assessment practitioners or specialists to join the External Experts Group. Preference will be given to those with experience in regional assessment, in Indigenous-led impact assessment, and in the Ontario far north context.

Assets for members in the Experts Group include:

- Diverse background in impact assessment disciplines
- Experience with regional assessment
- Knowledge of the developments planned in the Ring of Fire
- Experience working with Indigenous communities impacted by resource development
- Ability and willingness to travel for in-person meetings and workshops; and to participate in virtual meetings and support in-community training.

## The External Experts Group will be required to:

- Work with the Omushkego Advisory Group and combine Indigenous and other approaches to develop impact assessment tools and resources for community members to become confident in participating in impact assessments
- Support Omushkego leaders to exercise self-determination in impact assessment
- Participate in planning sessions online and in-person.

## Planned activities in 2024/25

The activities below are planned for 2024/25. Other activities will be planned with input from the group for subsequent years.

### Meeting 1 (Nov. 2024)

Toolkit and certification program development workshop (full day, in-person, in Timmins, ON)

### Meeting 2 (Winter 2024/25)

Review of Toolkit and Training modules (half-day, virtual online)

### Training Support (Spring 2025)

Support community training sessions (2- to 4-hour sessions (TBC) in each community, virtual online)

## Compensation

- All travel, lodging and food will be provided or compensated for the in-person meeting.
- A \$500 honorarium will be provided for each of the three meetings.

## Contact

If interested in a role in the External Experts Group, please submit a letter of intent to summarize why you are interested, your relevant experience, and how you would contribute to the group to Alana Graham by September 15, 2024:

Alana Graham, Mushkegowuk Council  
E-mail: [alanagraham@mushkegowuk.ca](mailto:alanagraham@mushkegowuk.ca)