**Community Studies Webinar - Questions**

*Topic 4 – Local & Regional Economic Development*

**Recorded Questions**

1. **How will existing industry in Northwestern Ontario be used in the development of this project? For example - the forest industry may have underutilized space or buildings that could house manufacturing services within a reasonable distance from the proposed location. Has this opportunity been considered? Have the large industry players across NWO been engaged through this study?**

They have reached out to all of the large corporations in this area, including Domtar, Richie’s Trucking, and Resolute, etc. as well as numerous smaller companies. In terms of their capacity, they are very interested in that. One company is already being contracted out for this project and there is the potential for more as well. For companies to be involved in the process, they have to be a part of the dialog, the conversation, and they have to know that the opportunity is coming, and then they can think about if they would like to take the opportunity or not.

1. **Municipalities (outside of Ignace) in the area will be impacted. What if the municipal infrastructure doesn't exist for this growth to happen? How will NWMO overcome this challenge?**

The best thing that the NWMO can do is to talk to the municipalities and the communities to give them more confidence in the timeline. That gives the municipalities the opportunity to say, this is what we have the capacity for and here is what would be incremental to the capacity that we can absorb.

1. **Will service commercial land in the local study area be used first instead of developing new lands for commercial development? Would that not be a more sustainable approach vs. spending more $$?**

Serviced land is available there and it costs less for people to use it, so you will find that there is more gravitation towards already serviced land. Which would make it less likely for a business to develop on new land because of the higher cost and more work that has to be put into building on that land. Additionally, it is required for them to be responsible for using serviced land before developing any other new lands. The key to success with municipalities across Northern Ontario is having serviced land and really the first step that is usually taken in an economical plan is to use the serviced land that is already there.

1. **What research has been conducted on airports with respect to this study?**

That research is talked about more in the infrastructure study, the transportation study, and the tourism study as well.

1. **What about other large & up and coming economic development opportunities (mining) being another catalyst for development? What happens if both catalysts happen?**

What a great opportunity that would be for the municipalities in this area. It could be a challenge from the implementation perspective, however, overall, it would be great for the communities. Additionally, from a planning perspective, that is really why growth plans are implemented, to account for that sort of growth and change.

1. **Tourism has a large impact on economic development in the region today, this project has the ability to negatively affect that. How will this be mitigated throughout this development? Have Outfitters and lodge owners been engaged as their livelihoods are potentially in the balance.**

It is recommended that when the tourism study is presented, you should come out to see the presentation because it explains in depth the research that has been done that explains how tourism will be affected. Additionally, outfitters and lodges have been engaged and they have given some inciteful information that will also be presented in the tourism studies presentation.

1. **Where is the proposed location in Ignace for the Center of Expertise?**

It is going to be built where the previous Taddeo Garage was, on the highway, pretty much in the center of town.