

Summary: Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link¹

Proposed Project: Construction of a 1,200 km electricity transmission line and a high-speed fibre optic line from Manitoba to five communities and two Agnico Eagle mines in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut. The project, which is being proposed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA), would be Nunavut’s first infrastructure link to southern Canada and would support future mineral exploration and development in the region.



¹ Based on information provided by the Kivalliq Inuit Association, May 2021.



Background: This project has been discussed for many years. In 2019 the federal government invested \$1.6 million for a technical feasibility study, and in the 2021 budget it committed to invest another \$3 million for data collection and analysis. The goals are to eliminate the reliance on diesel, adopt a greener economy, and expand economic development in the region.

The KIA is working with consultants to move the project forward. Fall 2020 fieldwork in Manitoba included trail cameras along the project route and ground sensors to gather information related to soil moisture content. Aerial surveys for wildlife were conducted in Manitoba in fall 2020 and spring 2021.

Current status: The proposed project is in the early planning stage. Summer 2021 fieldwork, including wildlife studies along the proposed project corridor, is planned for Nunavut. The federal government's 2021-22 commitment will fund data collection and analysis to support preliminary geomorphological, biophysical, heritage, permafrost and traditional land use studies.

Consultation: Consultation with communities had just begun when travel restrictions related to the Covid pandemic were put into place in Nunavut. Consultation with Inuit in Kivalliq communities and First Nations in northern Manitoba communities will be federally funded and Indigenous knowledge/IQ will be central to the project work. Initial dialogue has begun with the Kivalliq and northern Manitoba regional biologists.

Next steps: Project planning will continue through 2021 and beyond. The Budget 2021 proposal to invest more than \$40 million over three years to support feasibility and planning of hydroelectricity and grid interconnection projects in the North could keep the project moving forward.

For more information from the project proponent: <https://www.kivalliqlink.ca/>
