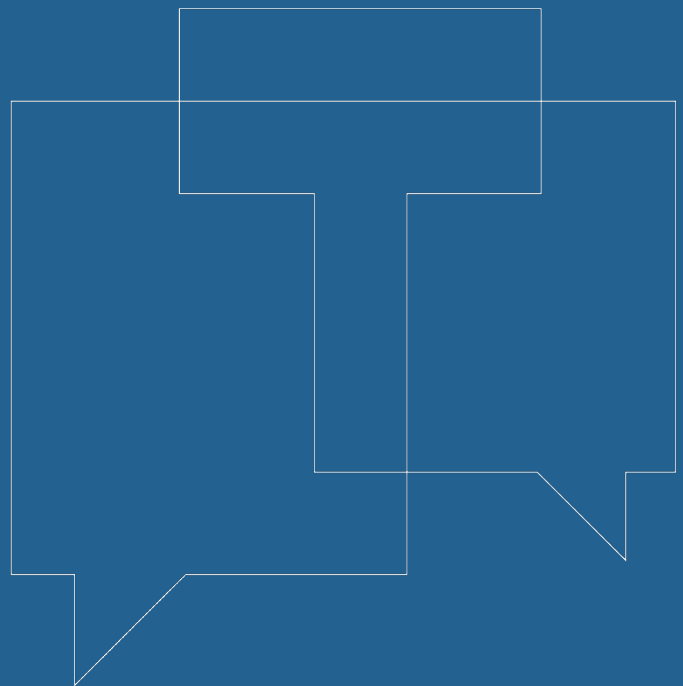


# MEETING MINUTES

## Information and Consultation Meeting Wolf Lake First Nation

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Prepared for:



## CONTEXT

Transfert Environnement et Société (hereafter TES) was mandated by Onimiki Renewable Energy to assist in the facilitation, reporting and planning of a series of public information and consultation meetings on the Onimiki Hydroelectric Project.

In winter 2025, four information and consultation meetings were held on the Onimiki Project in four different communities. The public could also participate online in the meetings. In all, some 147 participants took part in the events.

**This document reports on the feedback raised at the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting with the members of the Wolf Lake First Nation community.** This activity report is not a verbatim report but is intended to be as faithful as possible to the highlights of the meeting. Its purpose is to document the questions, comments and concerns raised at these meetings.

The content of this report cannot be considered as the verbatim words of Onimiki Renewable Energy, TES or any other person who participated in any of the meetings. Plain language, transparency and thoroughness are the principles that have guided the preparation of this document.

## INTRODUCTION

At this meeting, the community of Wolf Lake First Nation was invited to attend a presentation on the Project, followed by a question-and-answer period. Team members were available after the Q&A session to provide information and answer individual questions about the Project.

The presentation is available in the Appendix.



March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025



6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Le Centre  
(20 Humphrey Street, Témiscaming)



11 people participated  
face-to-face and online



## OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

- Provide an update on the Onimiki project.
- Explain the rationale behind the project.
- Present the steps of the information and consultation process.
- Discuss with the public and answer questions.
- Contribute to the drafting of the impact study.

## MEANS OF COMMUNICATION USED

- Onimiki Renewable Energy Social Media.
- Onimiki Renewable Energy website.
- Wolf Lake First Nation Social Media.
- Posters.
- Press releases, articles and interviews in local media.

## Contact who were on site at the events

Onimiki Renewable Energy	David McLaren, President, Onimiki Renewable Energy L.P.
	Marc Morin, Vice-President and General Manager, Développement PEK
	Daniel Migneault, Communications and Community Relations Advisor, Développement PEK
Transfert Environnement et Société	Isaac Gauthier, Facilitation
	Elisabeth Doyon, Facilitation and note-taking

### Meeting highlight

- Concerns raised about the project's impacts to the Kipawa River, including bank erosion, fauna, flora and various fish species.
- Questions about the means of communication planned to inform communities and project neighbours.

### Follow-up action

- Maintain ongoing communications with the community to keep them informed of upcoming activities.



## PRESENTATION & QUESTION PERIOD

Onimiki Renewable Energy presented a project update, including project highlights, latest developments, the consultation and impact assessment process, local benefits, the preliminary schedule and upcoming next steps. The presentation was followed by a question period. For more details, please refer to the presentation available in the Appendix.

The following section summarizes the exchanges that took place during the question period.

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is the \$475 million investment fixed?	It is an estimate, and the figures could change, all the while ensuring that the project is financially viable.
2	What is the difference in elevation between the dam on the Kipawa River and the outlet at the Onimiki North power station?	The difference in elevation is around 90 metres.
3	How do you plan to communicate with the project's neighbors to inform them of the anticipated impacts during the project's construction period?	<p>Subsequent meetings will be held between now and the submission of the Impact Study, scheduled for late 2025 or early 2026. Onimiki Renewable Energy also intends to set up a potential monitoring committee.</p> <p>There will certainly be impacts during construction. The purpose of the impact study is to identify these impacts and to propose mitigation measures to eliminate or minimize them. There will undoubtedly be noise, vibrations and increased traffic during construction, but once construction is complete, impacts are limited. We will communicate with the neighborhood throughout the process.</p>



#	QUESTION	ANSWER
4	What is the forecasted flow for the Kipawa River?	<p>The flow of the Kipawa River will be determined in the Impact Study, which will allow us to find a flow that meets the river's ecological needs, while still allowing enough flow for power generation and aesthetic look. The minimum flow for the Kipawa River is 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s, which is the target set by the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte aux changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP). Currently, during the summer tourist season, the average generally exceeds this threshold. The surplus above this minimum will be used to generate electricity. Onimiki is committed to maintaining a minimum flow of 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s.</p>
5	Could the project have an impact on fish and wildlife species in the Kipawa River?	<p>Onimiki is working with CIMA+, an independent firm specializing in environmental studies, to carry out the Impact Study. The firm has been conducting wildlife inventories since 2022 to obtain a complete wildlife picture in the project area, including the fish species present. Over 30 species have been identified to date.</p> <p>Modelling will be carried out with all the inventory data, which will be used to finalize the Impact Study.</p> <p>According to the preliminary results, no fish species of special-status were identified in the project area. This is a mandatory step of the impact study.</p> <p>Studies on the reproduction of species are also carried out, and if elements of interest are identified, the project will be adapted to minimize the impacts. The aim is to preserve the region's biodiversity.</p>



#	QUESTION	ANSWER
6	<p>Could the project contribute to erosion of the banks of the Kipawa River, and have an impact on the lake bed and surrounding land?</p>	<p>The Onimiki Project should not accentuate bank erosion in the Kipawa River, Gordon Creek or Lake Témiscamingue. Impacts are more likely to occur near the new outlet near lakes Nadeau and Thiriot, where small areas could be exposed or flooded.</p>
7	<p>Will the flow be increased in certain lakes?</p>	<p>The flow will likely be increased in lakes Thiriot and Nadeau, which will be linked by a series of canals to form a new outlet from the Kipawa reservoir.</p>
8	<p>The project calls for the creation of a third outlet at Lake Kipawa. What would be the impact of adding this third outlet?</p>	<p>The aim is to introduce no change to the management of Lake Kipawa. The same amount of water discharge will be divided between the three outlets. The Impact Study will identify the project’s specific impacts and propose the necessary mitigation measures. Simulations will also be carried out to assess these impacts, but we are confident that our plan should not pose any major issues.</p> <p>The Impact Study will also take into account the cumulative effects of all projects in the region, to ensure that our project integrates harmoniously into its environment.</p>





## Information and Consultation Meeting

### Wolf Lake First Nation



Onimiki Renewable Energy invites members of Wolf Lake First Nation to attend an information and consultation meeting about the Onimiki Project, a community hydroelectric power plant project developed by First Nations and Témiscamingue.

**Open to all Wolf Lake members!**



**Monday March 17 2025  
18 h 30**



**Le Centre, Salle Desjardins  
20 Humphrey Road,  
Témiscaming**



**The meeting can be viewed online. Details on  
[onimiki.ca/en/meetings](https://onimiki.ca/en/meetings)**



# APPENDICES




## Meeting Agenda & Objectives

<p><b>Word of Welcome</b></p> <p>About the Onimiki Project</p> <p><b>Project Update</b></p> <p>Consultations and Environmental Assessments</p> <p><b>Local Benefits</b></p> <p>Preliminary Timeline and Next Steps</p> <p><b>Question Period</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share a project update</li><li>• Explain the project rationale</li><li>• Present the information and consultation process</li><li>• Answer your questions</li></ul>
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Information and consultation meeting – March, 2025

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## Our Partners

The Onimiki Renewable Energy L.P. project is 100% community based. The objective is to develop a truly promising project that will benefit First Nations and all citizens of the MRC de Témiscamingue.



Kebaowek First Nation  
(20 %)



Wolf Lake First Nation  
(20 %)



MRC de Témiscamingue  
(40 %)



**Pekuakamiulnuatsh  
Takuhikan**

Première nation des  
Pekuakamiulnuatsh (20 %)

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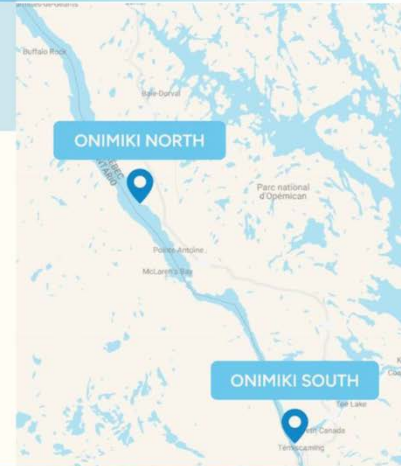
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## The Onimiki Project

The proposed project by Onimiki Renewable Energy has been designed with consideration for the feedback gathered during community consultations.

- Onimiki South: a 7 MW power station in Témiscamingue
- Onimiki North: a 60 MW power station (*located 30 km north of Témiscamingue and 15 km south of Lanier - near Pointe McMartin*)
- Cost estimate: \$475 million (*preliminary estimate based on comparable projects*)



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## A Project Adapted to its Host Environment

- A **reduced project of 67 MW** (compared to Hydro-Québec's abandoned 132 MW Tabaret Project).
- **Current management of Kipawa lake maintained:**
  - *Maintenance in summer - emptying in fall and winter.*
  - *The ministries concerned remain responsible for existing agreements.*
- **Maintenance of the current minimum flow of 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s in the Kipawa River**, as targeted by the Direction générale des barrages du Québec.
- **Mitigation measures discussed with the community** to reduce impacts.
- **Community-led project.**
- **Net cash is returned to the partners** and reinvested in community development.



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Information and consultation meeting – March, 2025

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## A Favorable Context

### Hydro-Québec's 2035 Action Plan – Towards a decarbonized and prosperous Québec

#### Priority #3: Increase our power generation capacity

Identify and launch the best projects that will enable us to generate more electricity to support Québec's ambitions and remain open to all options available to us.

#### Priority #4: Partnerships with Indigenous communities

Work towards economic reconciliation with First Nations and Inuit, in collaboration with the Québec government.

#### The benefits of the Onimiki Project

- Use of existing reservoir (no land flooding).
- Stable power thanks to hydroelectricity.
- A commercial framework with Hydro-Québec, rather than a call for tenders, which encourages project development.
- Guaranteed production during winter peak periods - savings for Quebec:
  - *During peak periods, Hydro-Québec often has to import electricity from Ontario or the United States. This electricity can cost up to 120¢ per kWh, 10 times more than the cost of new electricity supplies. (Radio-Canada, January 20, 2024).*

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## About Parc national d'Opémican

Onimiki Renewable Energy and its partners are aware of the importance of Parc national d'Opémican to the environment and the community, and take into account the park's integrity at every stage of the project's development.

**The proposed infrastructure is located outside of the park's boundaries.**

The project's potential effects to the park's natural environment and recreational potential will be detailed in the impact study in accordance with current legislation (Loi sur la qualité de l'environnement, Loi sur les Parcs).



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## Project - Overview

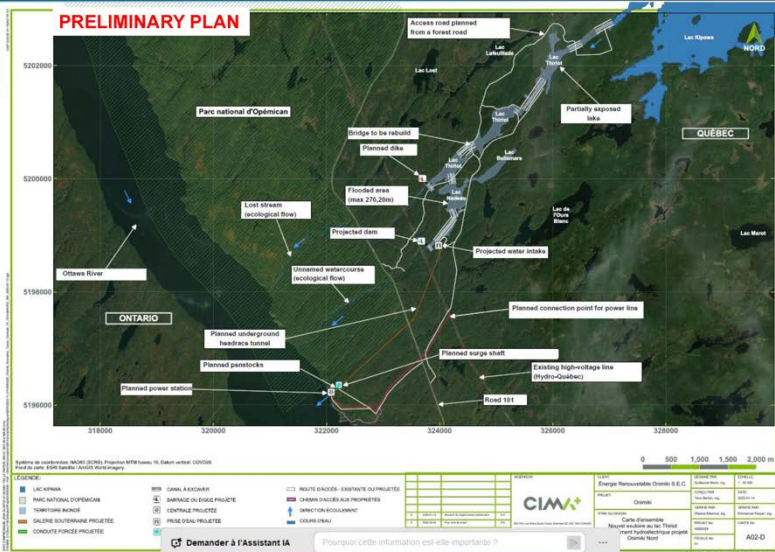
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## Onimiki North - overview

### Highlights

- A new outlet between Kipawa Lake and Témiscamingue Lake.
- A series of short canal sections (9) linking Kipawa lake, Thiriot lake and Nadeau lake.
- No major flooding between Kipawa lake and the proposed water intake. Some sections would be partially exposed.
- Management of Kipawa lake according to historical conditions.
- Ecological flow maintained in the Kipawa River (*aesthetic flow to be discussed with the community*).

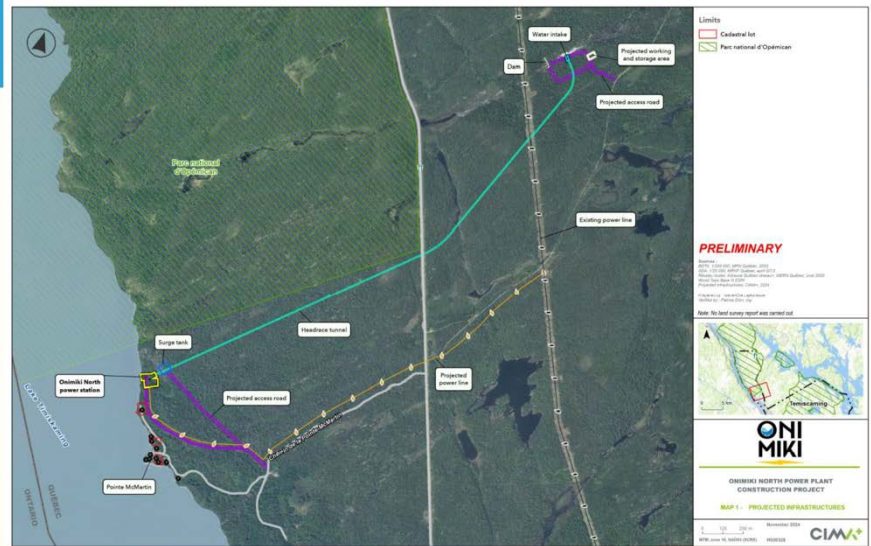


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## Onimiki North - Preliminary Plan

- A 3.2-kilometre underground headrace that avoids Parc national d'Opémican.
- A power station on the shores of Lake Témiscamingue.



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## Onimiki North - Dam and Water Intake

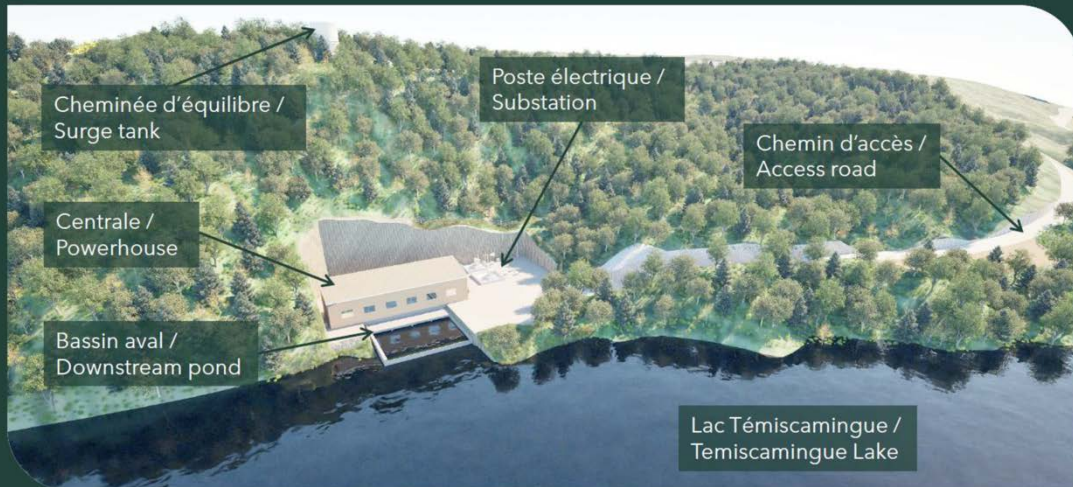


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## CENTRALE ONIMIKI NORD / ONIMIKI NORTH POWERHOUSE



CIMA+ Chambre de commerce  
de Témiscamingue

PROJET ONIMIKI / ONIMIKI PROJECT



## Onimiki South – Highlights



- The reuse of the old power plant is the current studied option.
- Flow levels between Kipawa dam and Lumsden dam (from Moulin Lake, Tee Lake, Jadot Lake, Aux Brochets Lake) remain the same (between 6.8 and 18 m<sup>3</sup>/s).
- An ecological flow (at all times) and an aesthetic flow (according to a calendar and schedule) are to be defined in Gordon Creek (between Lumsden dam and Témiscamingue lake).
- Discussions are planned regarding impact mitigation (e.g. marina relocation, construction, aesthetic flow).
- Virtually constant production year-round.

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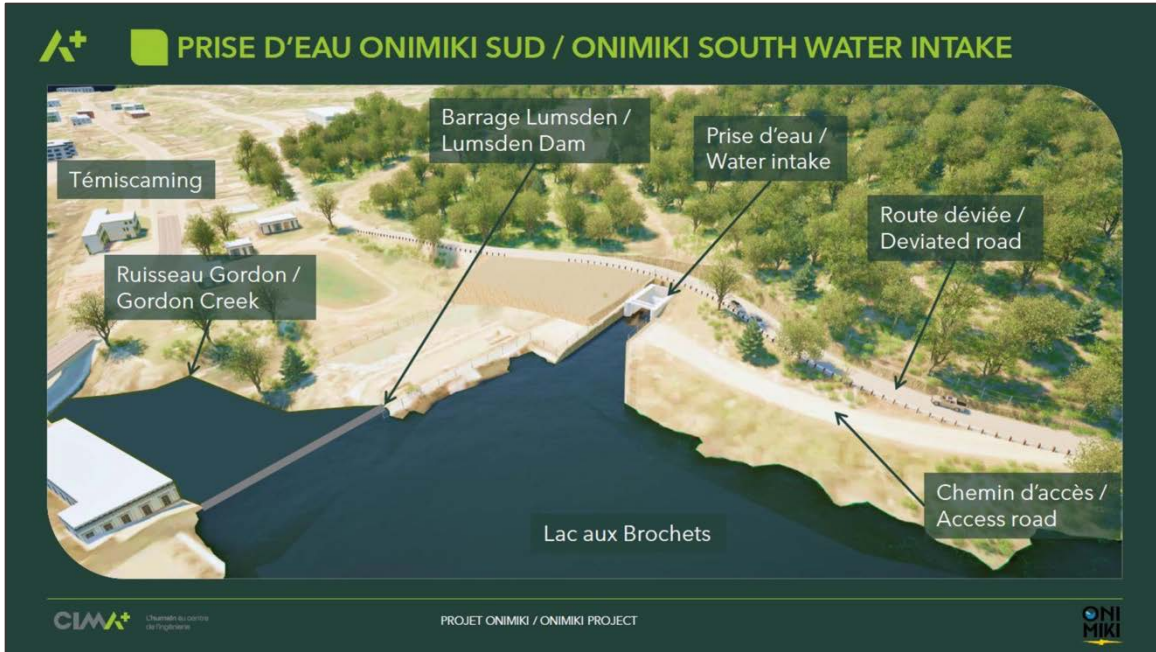
## CENTRALE ONIMIKI SUD / ONIMIKI SOUTH POWERHOUSE



 Chambre de commerce  
du Témiscamingue

PROJET ONIMIKI / ONIMIKI PROJECT





### Onimiki South (Underground Intake Gallery)

- Excavated 30 metres underground, in bedrock, there will be no impact on residents once the plant is commissioned. The preliminary route avoids several residences.
- Expected impacts during construction due to blasting, ventilation equipment and the transportation of excavated material.

CIMA+ Chambre de commerce de l'ingénierie

ONI MIKI

REABILITATION ONIMIKI SUD

EXPLOITATION TEMPORAIRE DES PROPRIÉTÉS

CIMA+

ONIMIKI

PROJET ONIMIKI / ONIMIKI PROJECT

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ONI MIKI







## Kipawa Lake Management - Current Situation

Dates	Action
December 1 <sup>st</sup> to March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Emptying the reservoir to make room for the spring flood
From the end of the flood until September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Management of the reservoir level
September 1 <sup>st</sup> to October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lowering for fish spawning
October 1 <sup>st</sup> to December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rise after fish spawning

- **Controlled by two retaining structures:** the Laniel dam on the Kipawa River and the Kipawa dam on the Gordon Creek reach.
- **Responsible authority:** The structures are managed by the Direction générale des barrages (DGB) of the ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP), in accordance with the water levels set out in the Kipawa Lake Joint Management Plan and safety study documents.
- **Order of priority for Lake Kipawa outlets :**
  - 6.8 to 18 m<sup>3</sup>/s discharged at Kipawa dam, into Gordon Creek since 2011.
  - Minimum flow of 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s maintained in the Kipawa River.
  - All excess flows are discharged at the Laniel dam on the Kipawa River.

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## Kipawa river flows

Hydrogrammes de la rivière Kipawa en situations actuelle et projetée



\*L'hydrogramme projeté suppose un débit de conception de 82 m<sup>3</sup>/s à Onimiki Nord et 13,5 m<sup>3</sup>/s à Onimiki Sud

Préparé par: Patrice Dion, ing., M.Sc.A. (OIQ 5069719)



Date: 17/09/2024

### Post-development management

- Management of the Kipawa lake remains unchanged, under the responsibility of the Direction générale des barrages.
- Discharge of 6.8 to 18 m<sup>3</sup>/s at Kipawa dam via the Gordon Creek reach.
- Maintenance of at least 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s in the Kipawa River.
- Available flow is directed to the Onimiki North power station (up to a maximum of 82 m<sup>3</sup>/s).
- Excess flow is discharged into the Kipawa River.

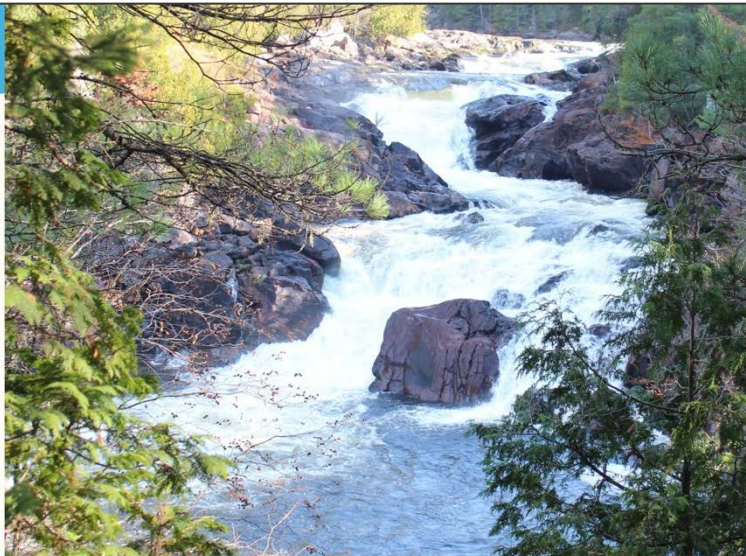
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## The great fall – flow : 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s

- The flow rate of 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s is the current minimum flow rate set by the Direction générale des barrages du Québec. Onimiki Renewable Energy uses this flow as a base assumption to determine the ecological flow to be maintained after development.
- Environmental studies will determine the right ecological flow rate to maintain biodiversity.



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## Consultations and Environmental Assessments

### Community Pre-Consultations

#### Objectives

- Enable the host communities to better understand the project.
- Address concerns to minimize impacts.
- Integrate local knowledge.
- Maximize spinoffs.
- Improve the project's design and, if necessary, incorporate these modifications directly into the Impact Study.

#### Communities and organizations we met

- Kebaowek First Nation
- Wolf Lake First Nation
- Timiscaming First Nation
- Les Amis de la Rivière Kipawa
- Association des riverains des Lacs Tee et du Moulin
- Comité municipal de Laniel
- Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue
- Parc national d'Opémican – SÉPAQ
- Tourisme Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Société de développement économique du Témiscamingue
- Résidents de la Pointe McMartin
- Municipalité de Béarn
- Municipalité de Kipawa
- Ville de Témiscaming

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## Environment

Onimiki Renewable Energy wants to develop a project that takes into account all environmental, social and economic concerns.

All environmental aspects will be well documented in the Impact Study.

The project's development will be consistent with the practice of traditional activities and First Nations' ancestral rights, all local activities (tourism, recreation, sports) and the maintenance of biodiversity.

The project will have to go through all the regulatory steps to obtain the necessary authorizations.

### Some examples of topics to be studied

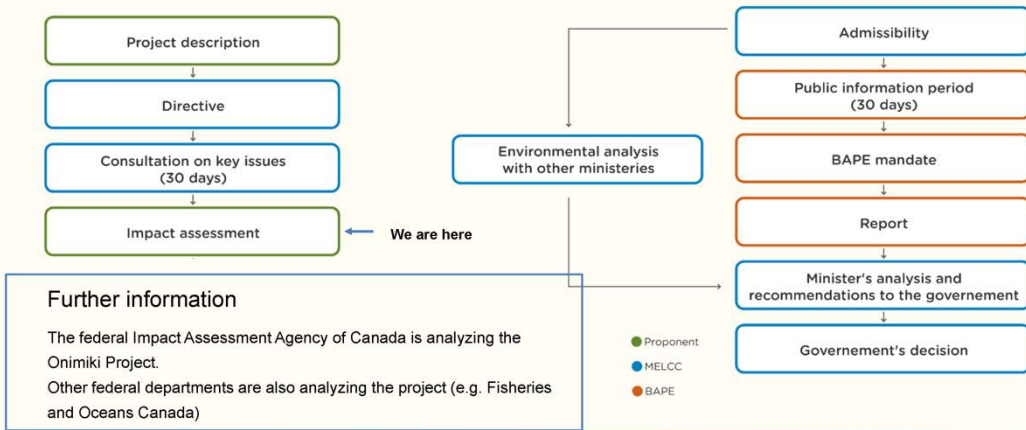
- Project compatibility with Parc national Opémican activities
- Water flow and quality
- Wildlife
- Flora
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Human environment
- Impacts of climate change

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## Regulatory Process



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# Local Benefits


## A Major Investment For Our Future

Investment	Estimated net cash (after debt payment)
Total : 475 M\$	Year 1 : 7,9 M\$
	Year 5 : 11,9 M\$
	Year 10 : 17,3 M\$
	Total after 10 years : 125 M\$

- Municipalities and First Nations have access to advantageous financing programs and rates.
- Onimiki Renewable Energy has a commercial framework with Hydro-Québec that allows the partners to confidently advance the project. The sale price will be negotiated by mutual agreement.
- Net cash generated increases annually.
- An independent economic study will be carried out to validate the benefits.

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## Supporting the Local Economy

### **Preliminary Estimates** (based on previous projects)

- ✓ 36 months of construction
- ✓ 1,400,000 hours worked
- ✓ An average of 225 workers over 36 months
- ✓ Invitations to tender published on the SEAO site
- ✓ 20 to 30 construction contracts between \$1 million and \$100 million
- ✓ Local purchasing of goods and service

Regional economic development organizations and First Nations economic development departments will be called upon to maximize spin-offs and job creation.



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## Preliminary Timetable and Next Steps



## Preliminary Next Steps

2025	2026	2027-2028	2029
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Information and consultation process</b></li> <li>• <b>Delivery of environmental reports</b></li> <li>• Geotechnical surveys</li> <li>• Discussions on maximizing economic benefits</li> <li>• Start of detailed engineering</li> <li>• <b>Impact Study drafting</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Impact Study submittal</b> (end of 2025 or beginning of 2026)</li> <li>• <b>Environmental assessment process</b></li> <li>• Permits and authorization requests</li> <li>• <b>Energy purchase contract negotiation with Hydro-Québec</b></li> <li>• Calls for tenders and contract awarding</li> <li>• <b>Preconstruction</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Construction</b></li> <li>• Monitoring committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of construction</li> <li>• Commissioning</li> <li>• Connection to the Hydro-Québec grid</li> <li>• Monitoring committee</li> </ul>

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## Next Pre-consultation Steps



### Public meeting in english Open to all

Tuesday April 22 2025 at 6h30 PM  
Le Centre Salle Dottori  
20 Humphrey Road, Témiscaming



*Additional public and targeted meetings will be planned over the course of 2025.*



### Participatory Workshops (in person and online)

#### Workshop 1

**April 23 2025 at 6:30 PM**  
Salon Desjardins  
20 Humphrey,  
Témiscaming

#### Worshop 2

**June 9 2025 at 6:30**  
Salon Desjardins  
20 Humphrey,  
Témiscaming

- Participatory public workshops will provide an opportunity to delve deeper into the issues specific to the project.
- The workshops will be open to all. People will be asked to register.
- Workshop topics will be defined following ongoing meetings.
- Experts will be invited per the topics selected.

Community hydroelectric power plant project in Témiscamingue  
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## Information and communications



Website : [www.onimiki.ca](http://www.onimiki.ca)

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/projetOnimiki](https://www.facebook.com/projetOnimiki)

Newsletter : [www.onimiki.ca/newsletter](http://www.onimiki.ca/newsletter)

Email : [contact@onimiki.ca](mailto:contact@onimiki.ca)

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