



## **Community hydroelectric power plant project in Témiscamingue**

**Information and consultation meeting  
Kebaowek First Nation**

**January, 2026**

# Agenda and objectives of the meeting

## **A word of welcome**

**About the Onimiki project**

## **Project update**

**Environment and project study areas**

## **Questions**

**Documentation of First Nations land use**

## **Meeting objectives**

- Update on the Onimiki project
- Consultation process with First Nations
- Document First Nations land uses

# Our partners

The Onimiki Renewable Energy L.P. project is being developed on a 100% community basis. The partners' goal 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  
Takuphikan**

Première nation des  
Pekuakamiulnuatsh (20 %)



# About the Onimiki Project

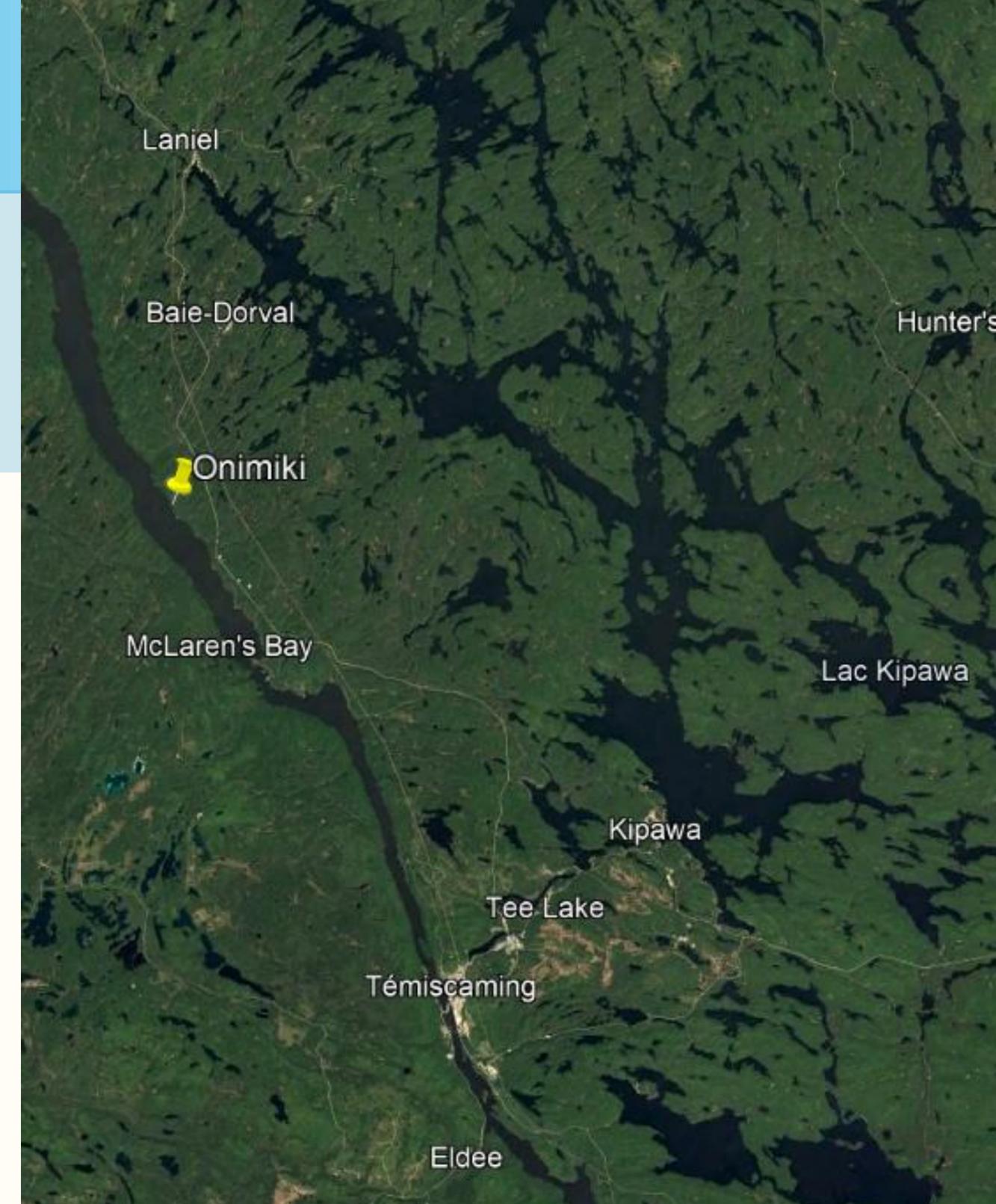
# The Onimiki project - highlights

Onimiki Renewable Energy's proposed project has been developed taking into account comments received during community consultations.

- Onimiki (North): a 60 MW power station (*located 30 km north of Témiscaming and 15 km south of Laniel - near Pointe McMartin*)
- Cost estimate: \$475 million (*under review*)

## **Onimiki South is withdrawn of the project**

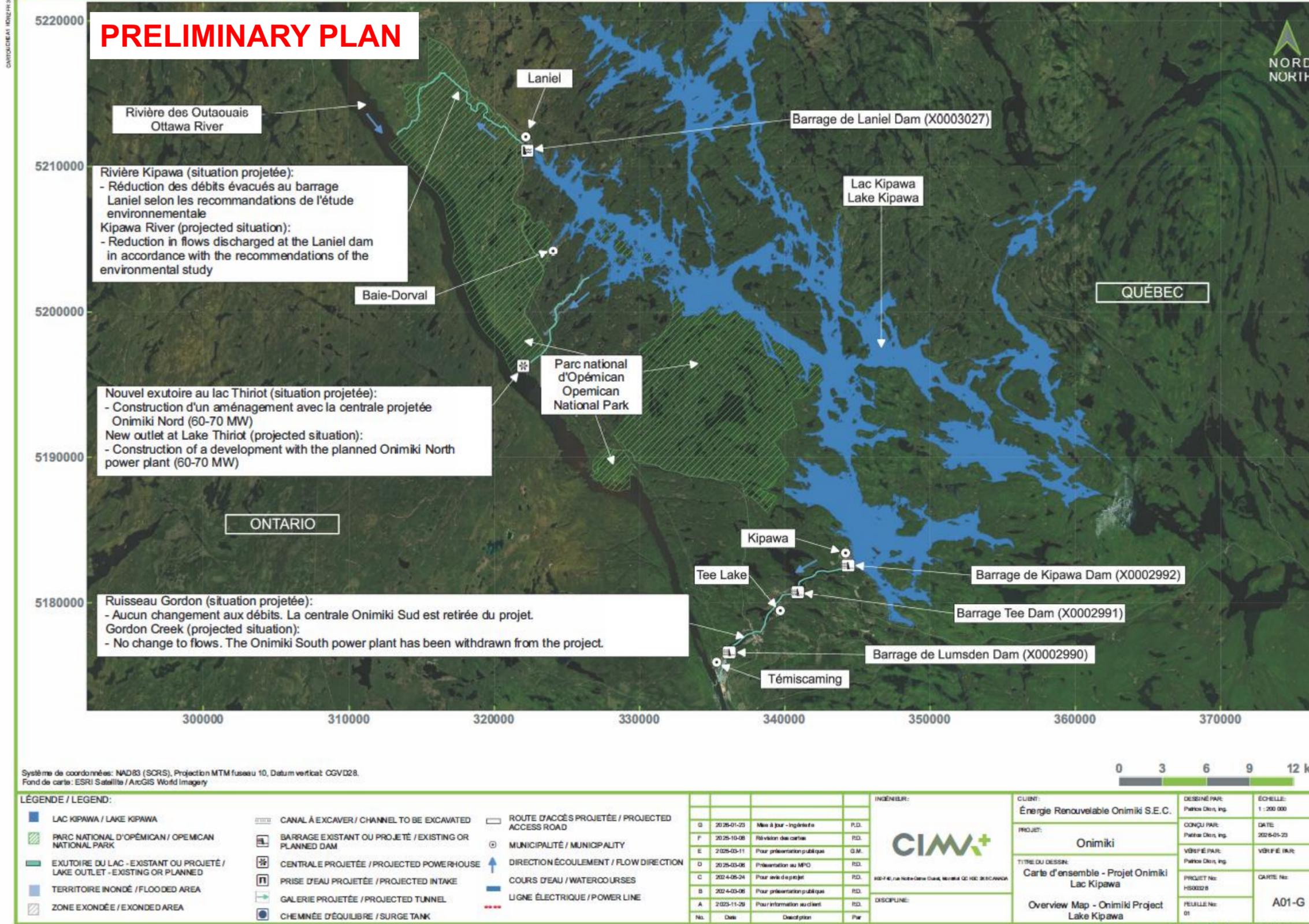
- Comprehensive analyses have demonstrated that the conditions are not in place to justify the development of a second power plant (7MW) in the former Kipawa power plant in Témiscaming.
- The development of only one power plant reduces the complexity of the project.



# Onimiki North – overview

## Highlights

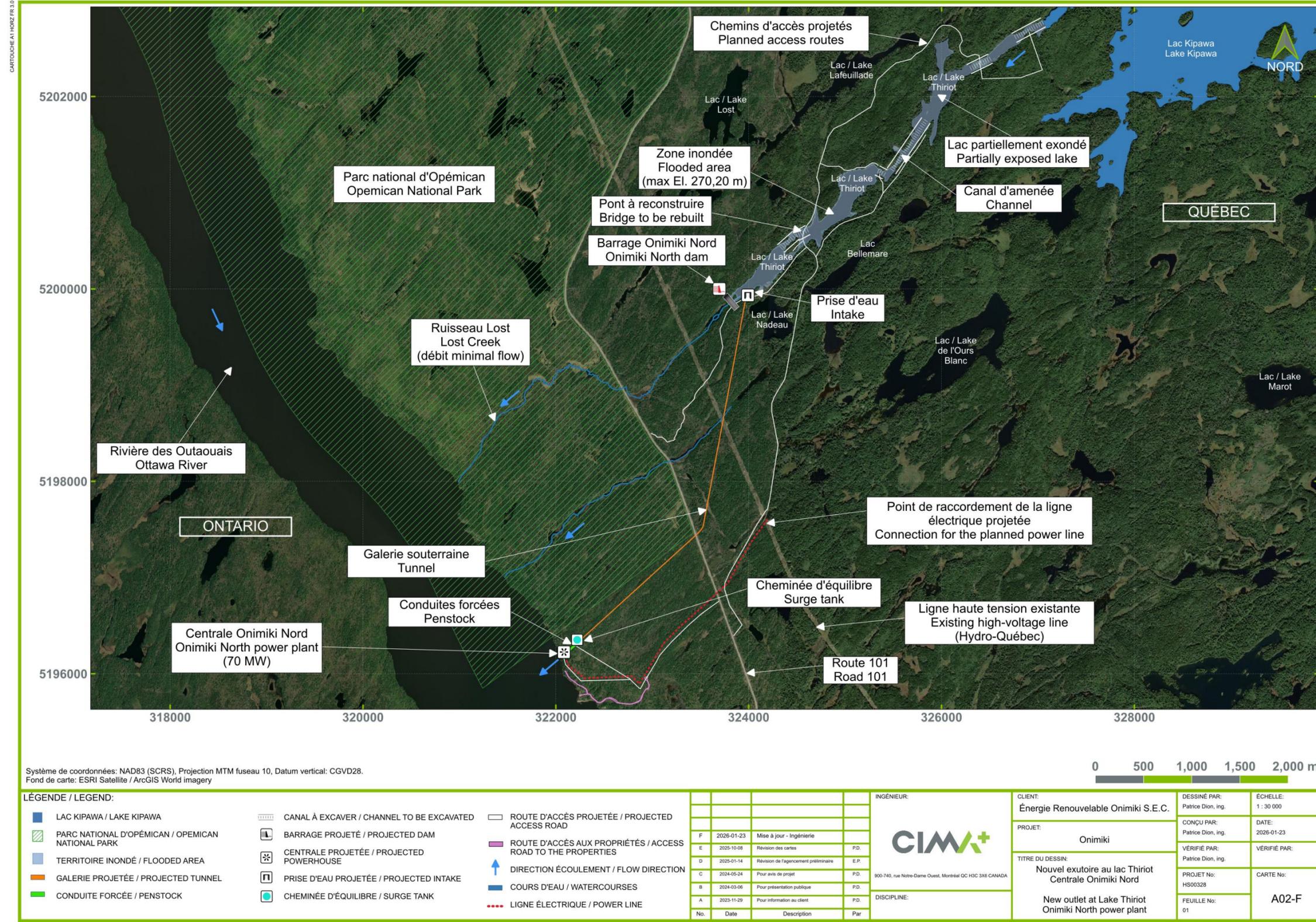
- A new outlet between Lake Kipawa and Lake Témiscamingue.
- No major flooding between Kipawa lake/reservoir and the proposed water intake. Some sections would be partially exposed.
- Management of Kipawa lake/reservoir according to historical conditions.
- Ecological flow maintained in the Kipawa River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



Community hydroelectric power plant project in Témiscamingue  
Information and consultation meeting – Kebaowek First Nation

# Onimiki Nord - preliminary plan

- A series of short canal sections linking Kipawa lake, Thiriote lakes.
- A 4.4-kilometres underground headrace that avoids Parc national d'Opémican.
- A power station on the shores of Lake Témiscamingue.
- Optimization of the water intake location following environmental inventories and consultations

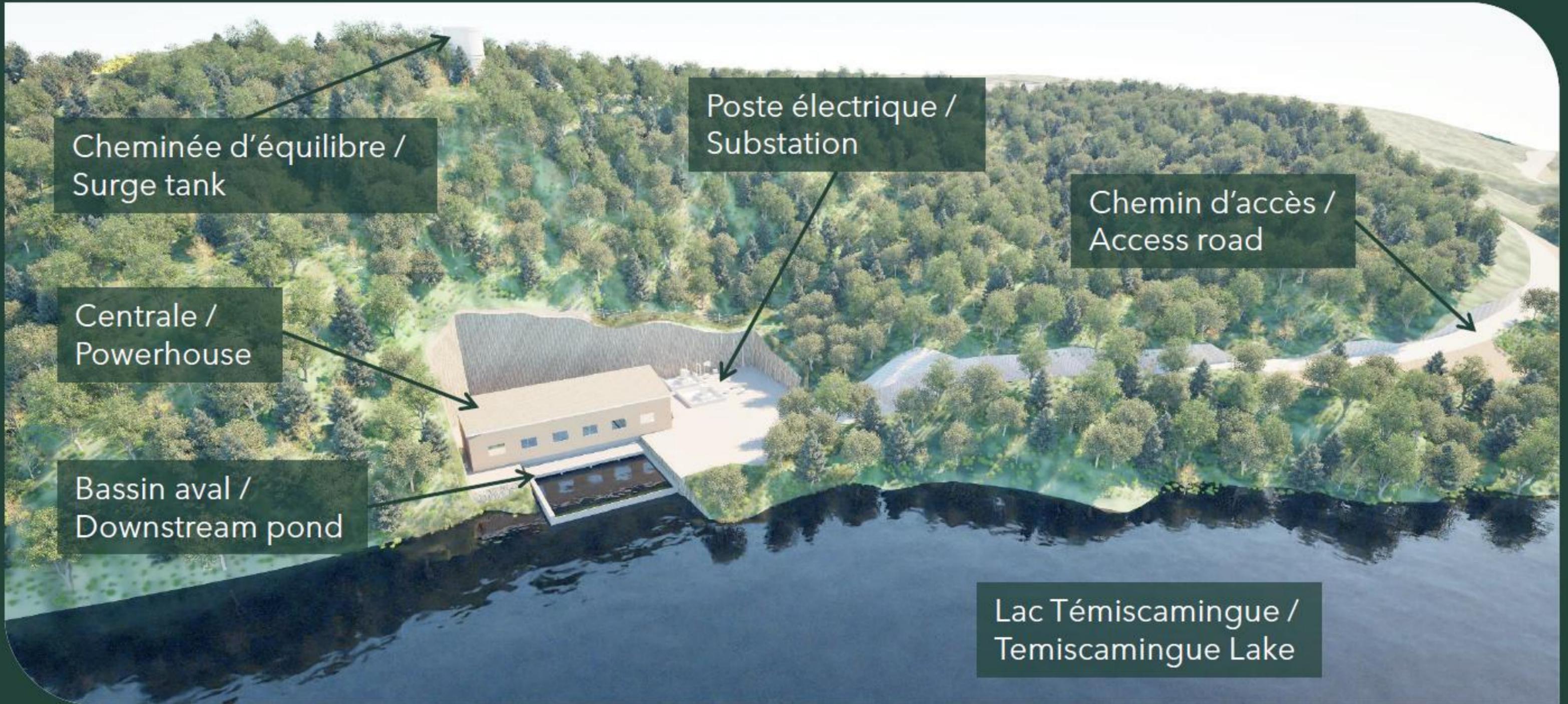


Community hydroelectric power plant project in Témiscamingue  
Information and consultation meeting – Kebaowek First Nation





# CENTRALE ONIMIKI NORD / ONIMIKI NORTH POWERHOUSE



# Post-development management *(preliminary)*

- Management of the Kipawa reservoir remains unchanged, under the responsibility of the Direction générale des barrages du ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs.
- 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 82 m<sup>3</sup>/s).
- Excess flow is discharged into the Kipawa River.



# 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 : 125 M\$

Investment Kebaowek (20%)	Estimated net cash (after debt payment)
Total : 95 M\$	Year 1 : 1,58 M\$
	Year 5 : 2,38 M\$
	Year 10 : 3,46 M\$
	Total : 25 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 move forward with confidence in the development of 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

# Supporting the local economy

## Preliminary estimates

- ✓ 36 months of construction
- ✓ Between 800 000 and 1 000 000 hours worked
- ✓ An average of 225 workers over 36 months
- ✓ Invitations to tender published on the SEAO site
- ✓ 20 to 30 construction contracts between \$500 000 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.



# 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 environmental impact study. (mid-2026)

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 stages in order to obtain the necessary authorizations.

## Some examples of topics to be studied

- Project compatibility with Opémican

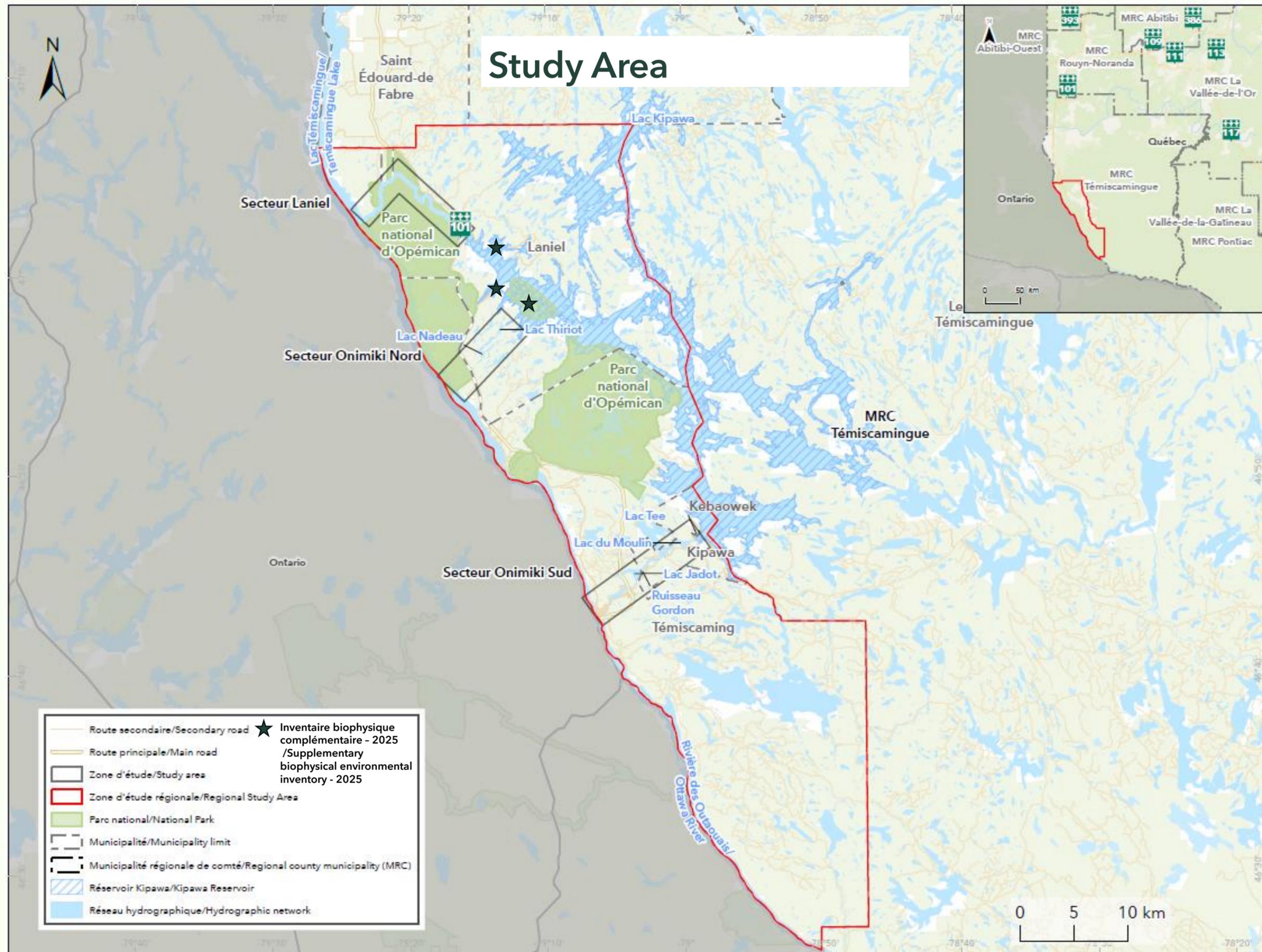
### National Park activities

- Water quality
- Wildlife
- Flora
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Social environment
- Impacts of climate change



02

# Study Area



# Biophysical Environment Inventory

## List of biophysical environmental surveys conducted between 2022 and 2025

- Physical Environment
  - Water quality
  - Sediment quality in areas where excavation may occur during potential construction works
  
- Biological Environment
  - Description of habitats:
    - Vegetation communities
    - Aquatic:
      - Drone survey : conducted in targeted areas (Kipawa River and watercourses downstream of the proposed dam in Onimiki North Study Area)
      - Characterization of the watercourses and water bodies: channel morphology, substrate, delineation of high-water mark / bankfull width

# Biophysical Environment Inventory

## List of biophysical environmental surveys conducted between 2022 and 2025

- Biological Environment
  - Inventories:
    - Flora (endangered, threatened, special concern, invasive species)
    - Fish (ichthyofauna)
    - Herpetofauna (turtles, snakes, salamanders, and frogs)
    - Birds : breeding bird surveys (e.g., wetland species, nighthawks, songbirds)
    - Bats (Chiroptera)

## Fish and Fish Habitat CIMA+ Survey Results (2022-2025)

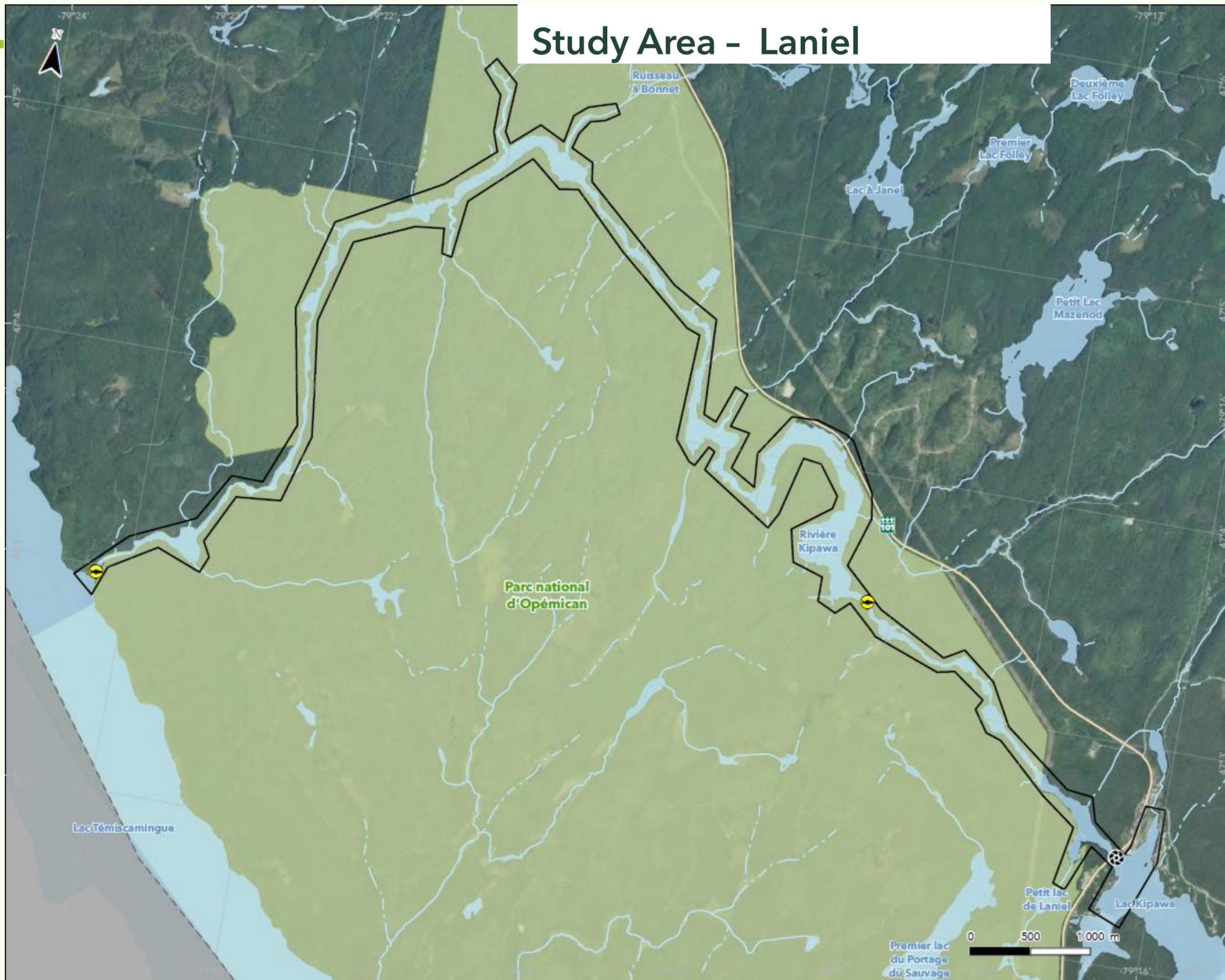
- 25 fish species were recorded
  - 17 species in the Laniel Study Area; including 14 species in the Kipawa River
  - 10 species in the Onimiki North study area
  
- 7 potential spawning areas were identified (see following figures) :
  - 2 Suspected walleye spawning areas in the Laniel Study Area

Espèce de poisson	Fish species	Laniel study area 2022-2024	Kipawa River 2025	Onimiki Nord study area
Achigan à petite bouche	Smallmouth bass	X <sup>1</sup>	X	
Barbotte brune	Brown bullhead	X	X	X
Chabot tacheté	Mottled sculpin			
Cisco de lac	Cisco	X		
Crapet de roche	Rock bass	X	X	
Crapet-soleil	Pumpkinseed		X	X
Dard à ventre jaune	Iowa darter			X
Dard barré	Johnny Darter		X	
Doré jaune	Walleye	X <sup>1</sup>	X	
Épinoche à cinq épines	Brook stickleback	X <sup>1</sup>		X
Fouille-roche zébré	Logperch		X	
Grand brochet	Northern pike	X <sup>1</sup>	X	X
Grand corégone	Lake whitefish			
Lotte	Burbot	X		
Méné à museau noir	Blacknose shiner			
Méné jaune	Golden shiner			
Méné ventre rouge	Northern redbelly dace			X
Meunier noir	White sucker	X <sup>1</sup>	X	X
Meunier rouge	Longnose sucker		X	
Mulet à cornes	Creek chub		X	
Mulet perlé	Pearl dace			X
Ouitouche	Fallfish	X	X	X
Perchaude	Yellow perch	X	X	X
Touladi	Lake trout	X		

<sup>1</sup> Fish species recorded during surveys conducted between 2022 and 2024 in the Kipawa River



# Study Area - Laniel



- Composantes du projet**
- Réseau routier
  - Zone d'étude
- Infrastructure**
- Barrage
  - Centrale projeté
- Frayère à doré jaune**
- Aire de fraie à forte probabilité du doré jaune
  - Aire de fraie à probabilité moyenne du doré
  - Aire de fraie peu probable du doré jaune
- Milieu hydrique**
- Cours d'eau intermittent
  - Cours d'eau permanent
  - Hydrographie superficielle

Source :  
BDTA, 1/250 000, MNR Québec, 2002  
SDA, 1/20 000, MNR Québec, avril 2012  
Service d'imagerie © Gouvernement du Québec  
CIM+, 2025



CARACTÉRISATION ÉCOLOGIQUE DES MILIEUX HYDRIQUES ET INVENTAIRE ICTHYOFAUNE

Carte 1.1 Localisation des zones d'études Secteur Laniel

Projet de construction des centrales Onimiki Nord et Sud sur le territoire de la municipalité régionale de comté de Témiscamingue par Énergie Renouvelable Onimiki S.E.C.

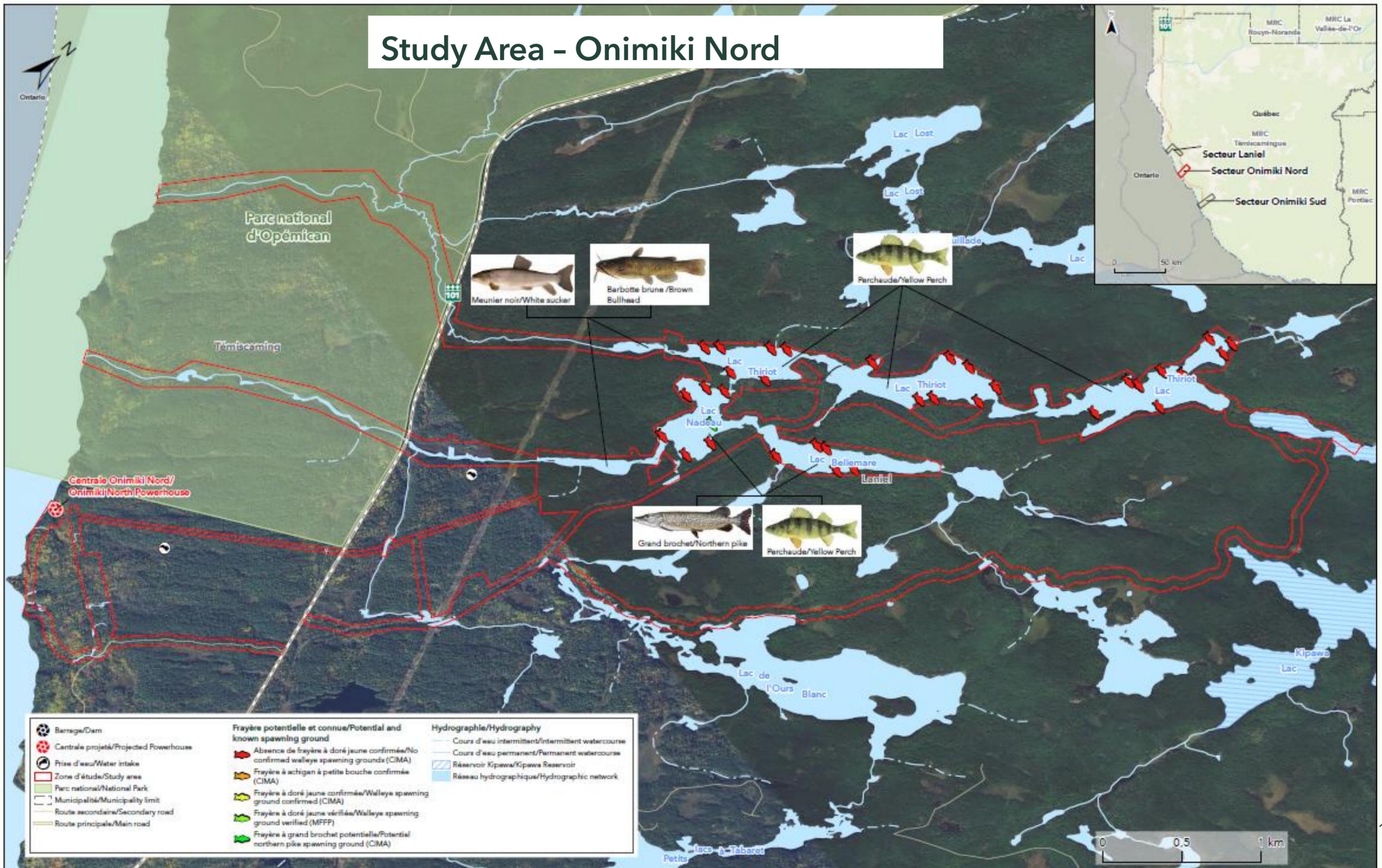
HS00328 27 janvier 2026 Projection : NAD 1983 CRS MTM 10

Préparé par : Hugo Wittek  
Réalisé par : Marie-Ève Lajeunesse  
Vérifié par : Michelle Lavictoire





# Study Area - Onimiki Nord



# Natural Environment

## Avifauna (Birds)

- 76 songbird species recorded during the breeding season
- Confirmation of 4 provincially designated species:
  - Common Nighthawk, Canada Warbler, Peregrine Falcon, and Bald Eagle

## Bats

- Presence of eight bat species
  - 7 provincially designated species : Silver-haired Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, Eastern Small-footed Myotis and Tri-coloured Bat
  - 2 federally designated species « Endangered » : Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis

## Herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles)

- Confirmed presence of 15 amphibian and reptile species
- Confirmed presence of 1 designated species : Snapping Turtle

# Preliminary Impact Assessment

## Examples of Anticipated Preliminary Mitigation Measures - Fish and Fish Habitat

Avoidance measures :

- Minimize works planned below the high-water mark (within the watercourse)
  - None on Kipawa River
- Avoid impacts to aquatic species at risk
  - No critical habitat or residences of an aquatic species at risk identified

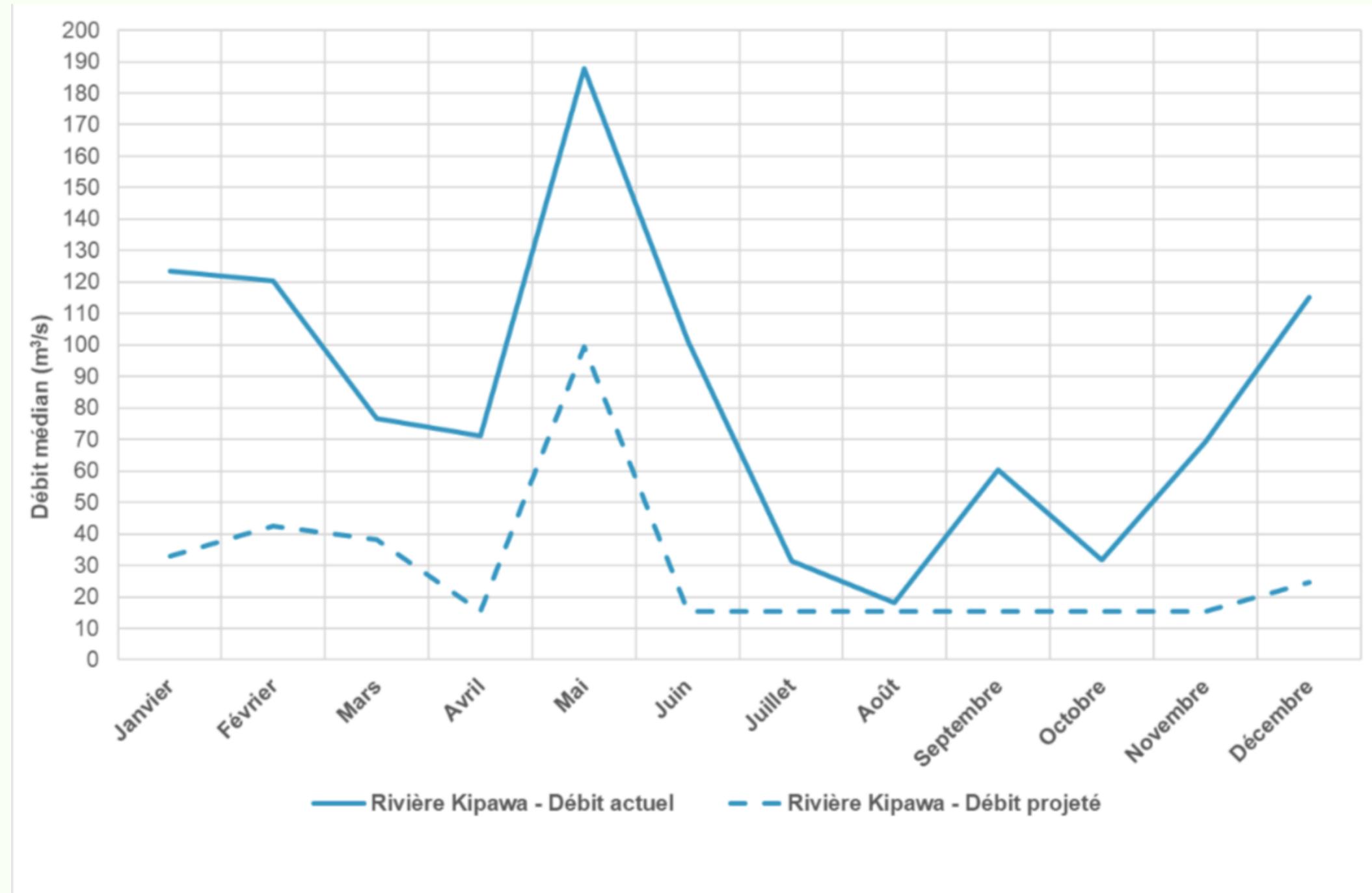
Mitigation measures :

- Ensure adequate ecological flow during fish-sensitive periods (spawning) :
  - Waterpower facility operations would be secondary to the maintenance of ecological flow
  - For instance: all spring-spawning species require flows that maintain key habitats during the period from April 15 to June 15
- Ensure flows that maintain fish passage, as required

# A+ Preliminary Impact Assessment - Kipawa River

## Water Level / Flow Modifications - Kipawa River

Existing and Proposed Median Flows in the Kipawa River Reach



# A+ Presentation of habitats at different flows

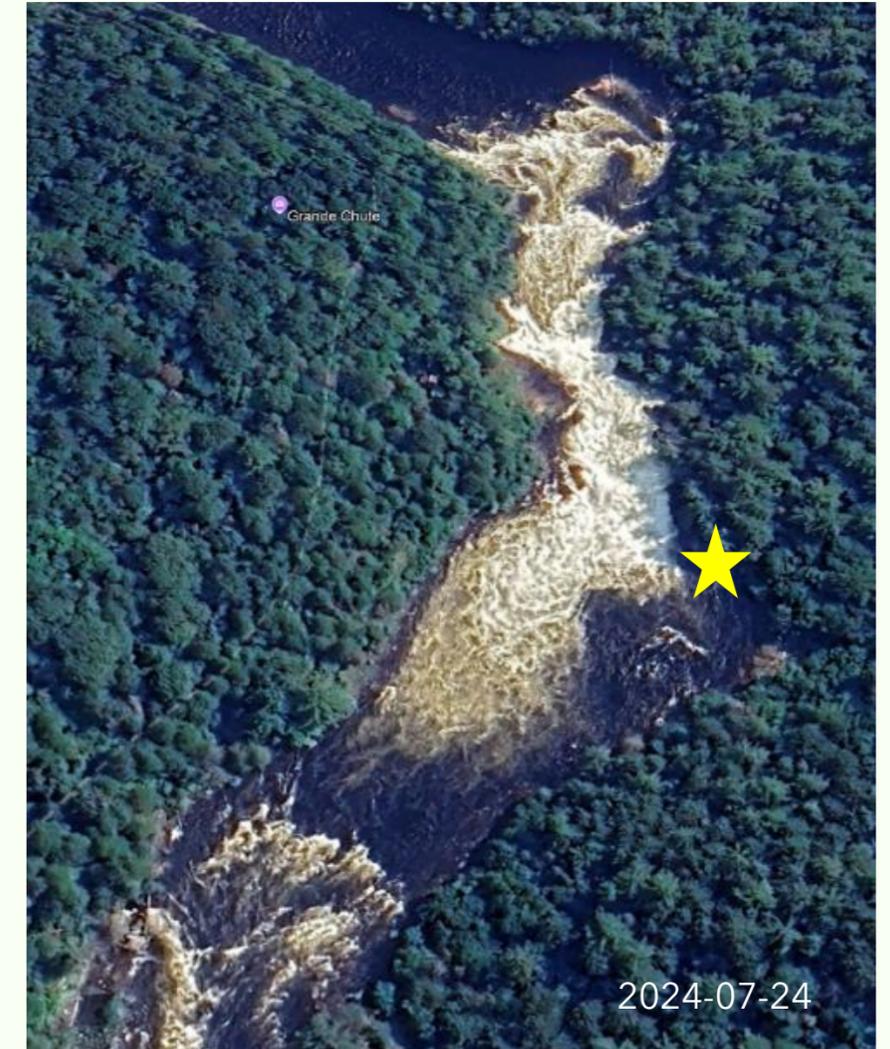
## Grande Chute



15,8 m<sup>3</sup>/s



50,9 m<sup>3</sup>/s



114,9 m<sup>3</sup>/s  
(Source : Google Earth)

# A+ Presentation of habitats at different flows

## Three Blind Mice Rapids(R2-3)



15,8 m<sup>3</sup>/s



50,9 m<sup>3</sup>/s



303,4 m<sup>3</sup>/s  
(Source : Google Earth)

# A+ Presentation of habitats at different flows

## R2 - Downstream of Tumbling Dice Rapids (R2-3)



15,8 m<sup>3</sup>/s

2024-10-22



50,9 m<sup>3</sup> /s

2024-10-25

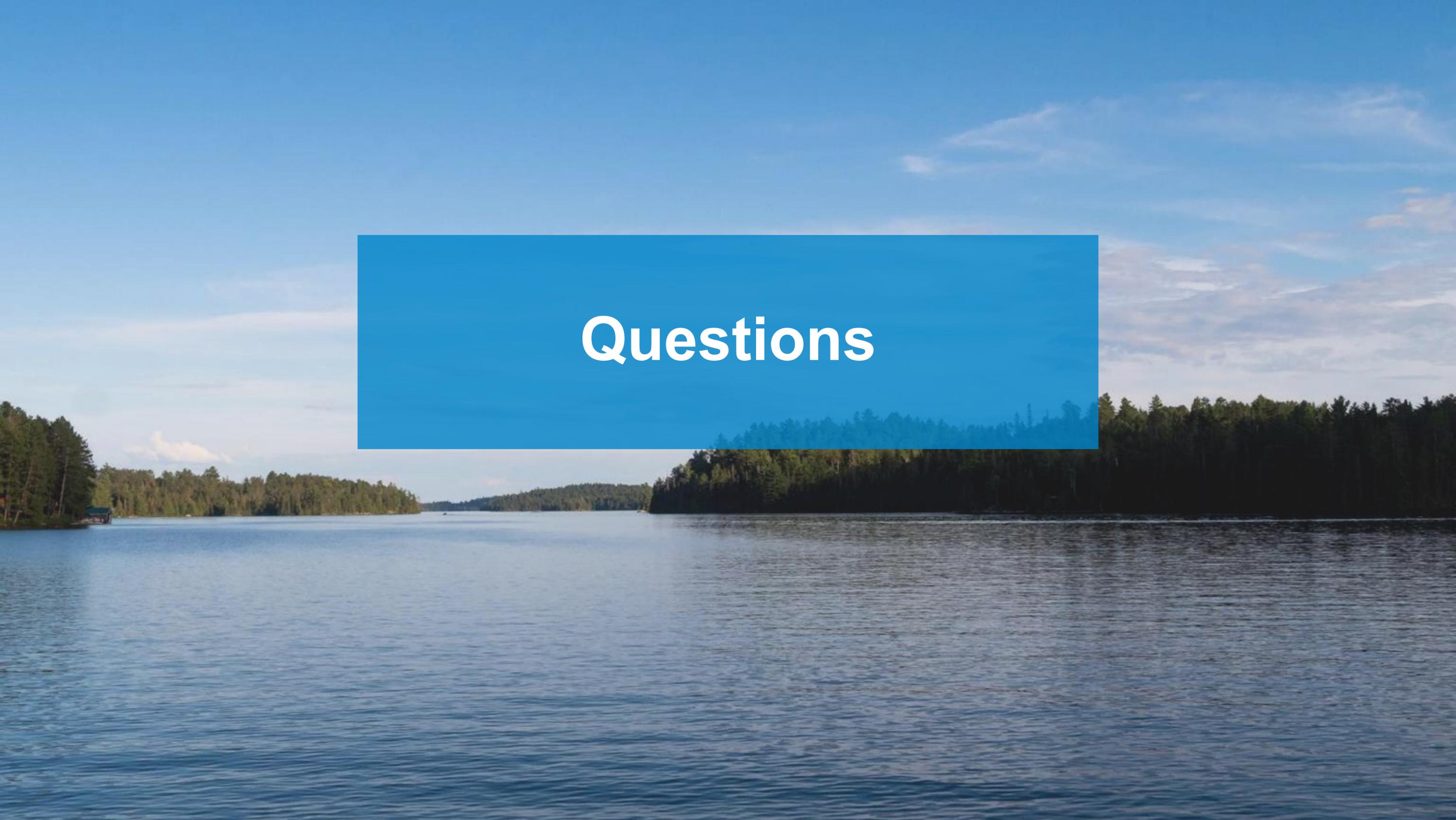


303,4 m<sup>3</sup> /s

(Source : Google Earth)

2013-05-24

2013-05-24  
2013-05-24



# Questions



02

# Social Environment

# Land use documentation

## Why document land uses in the territory ?

### For the impact assessment report:

- ❑ To ensure that the description of the environment is as representative as possible to reality;
- ❑ To conduct a fair analysis of the impacts that the various activities of the project could have on land use;
- ❑ To develop appropriate mitigation measures, if applicable.

### For engineering:

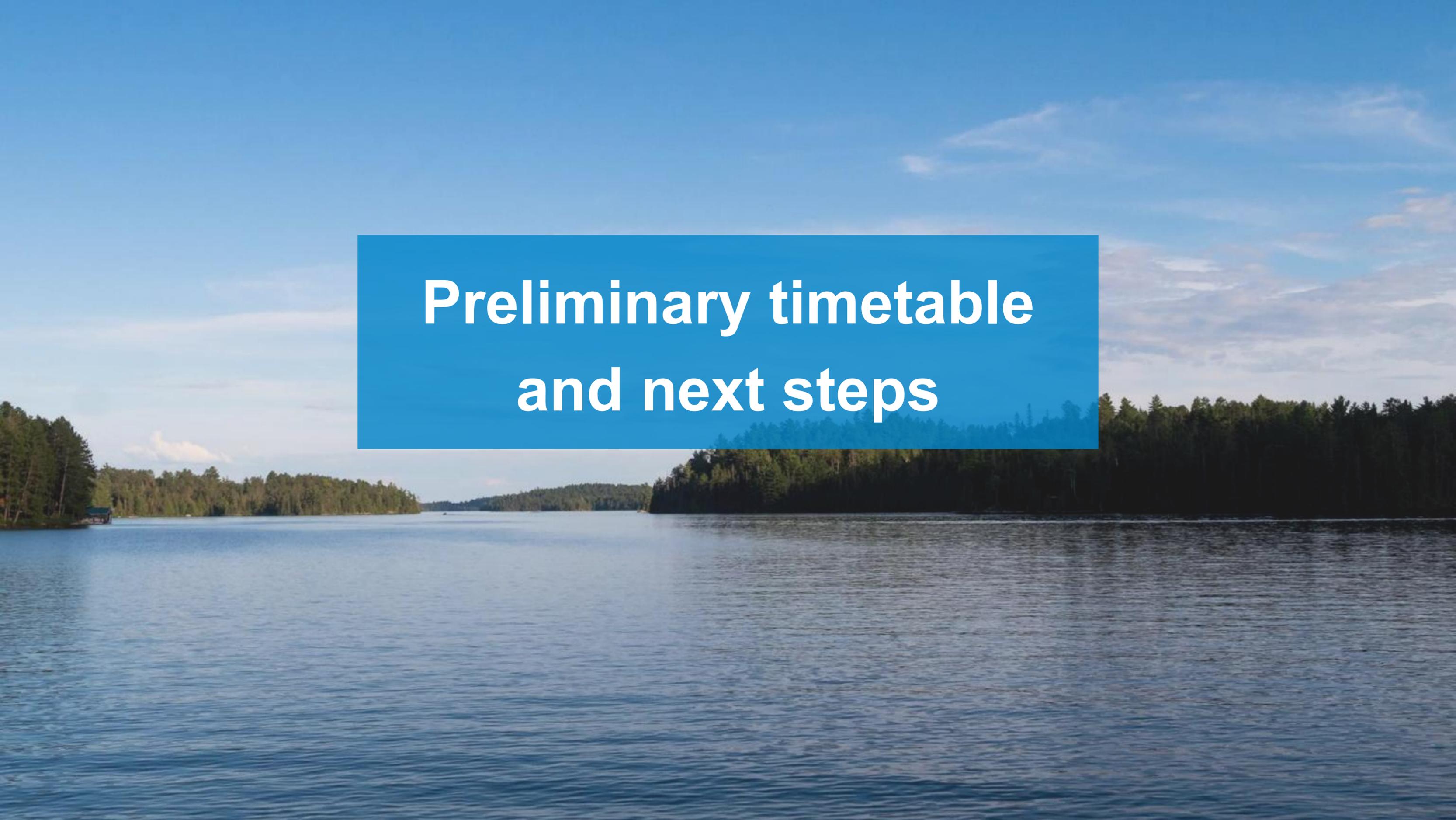
- ❑ Allow opportunities to adjust the design, if possible, based on the information obtained, to minimize the impacts.

## How can you help us ?

- ❑ Identify on the maps your :
  - ❑ Hunting areas;
  - ❑ Trapping areas;
  - ❑ Fishing areas;
  - ❑ Harvesting areas;
  - ❑ Any other places used by the community for the practice of traditional activities.



**Rest assured that this information will not appear as such in the impact study report, the precise locations will remain confidential.**



# Preliminary timetable and next steps

# Next steps

## 2026

- Information and consultation process
- Discussions on maximizing economic benefits
- Start of detailed engineering
- Drafting and submission of the impact study (mid-2026)
- MELCCFP Environmental Assessment process

## 2027

- Obtaining the necessary authorizations
- Negotiations for an energy purchase contract with Hydro-Québec

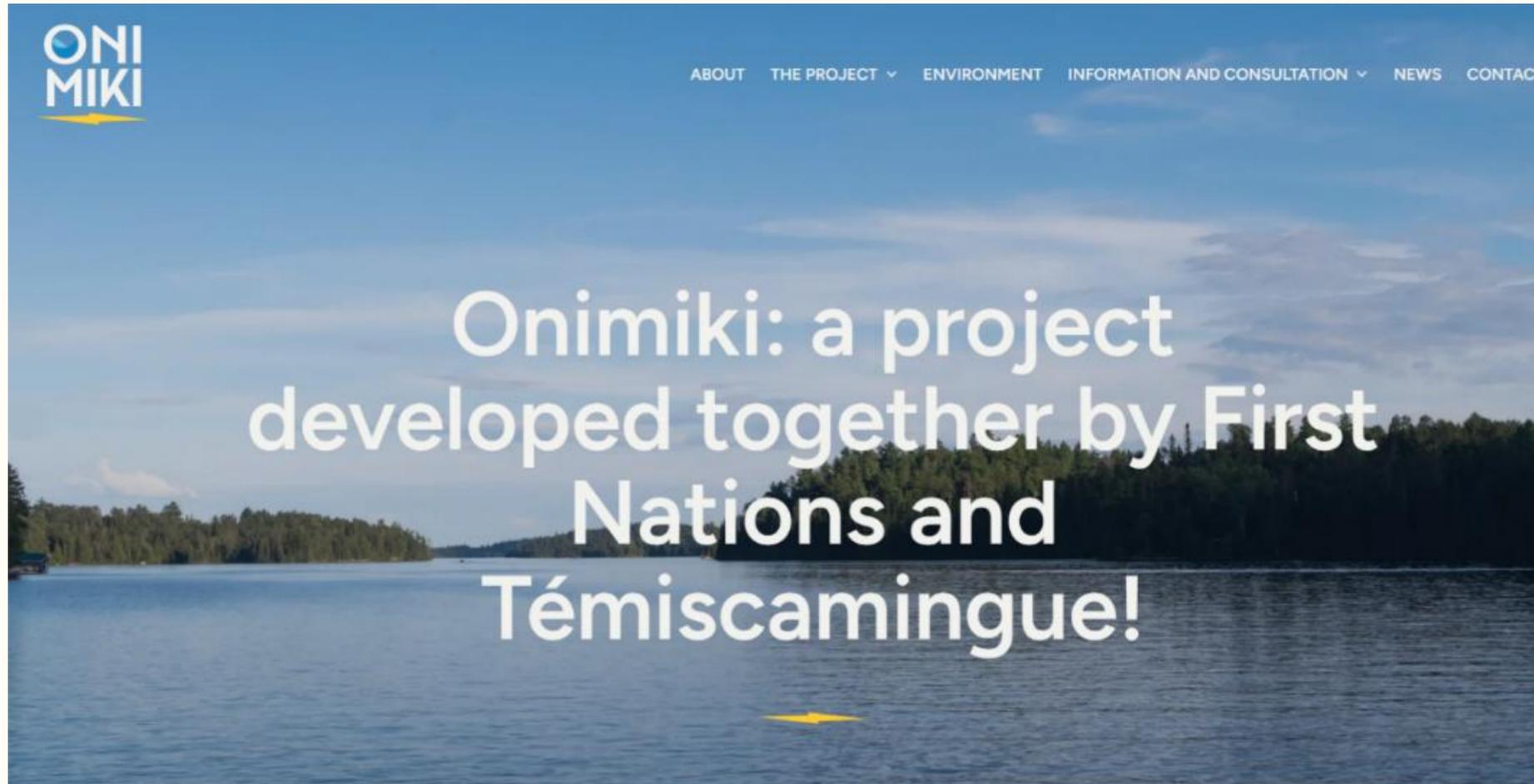
## 2028-2030

- Calls for tenders and awarding of contracts
- Construction
- Monitoring committees

## 2030

- Commissioning
- Connection to the Hydro-Québec grid
- Monitoring committees

# Information and communications



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

**Facebook :**

[www.facebook.com/projetOnimiki](http://www.facebook.com/projetOnimiki)

**Newsletter :**

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

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



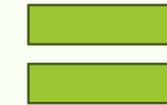
**THANK YOU**



# APPENDIX

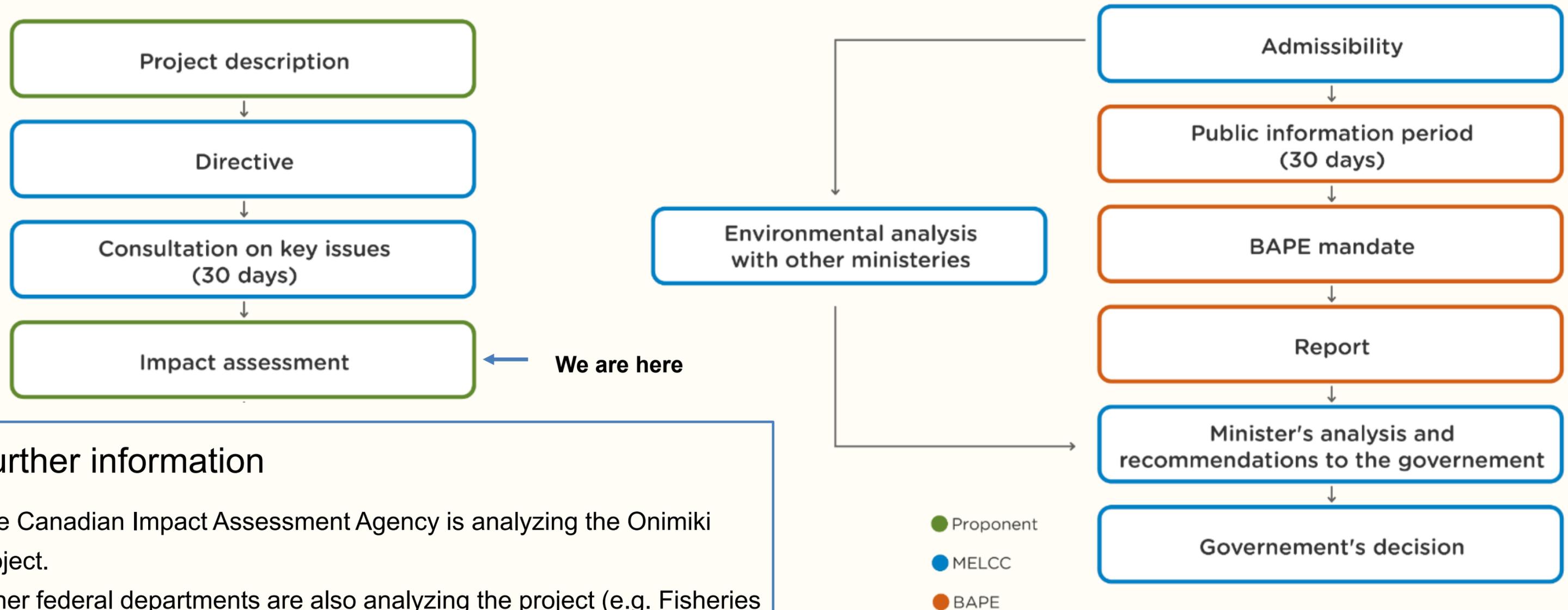
# A+ Preliminary issues and valued components

Issue	Valued component
Maintain aquatic ecosystems	Aquatic fauna Benthic fauna
Maintain wetland and terrestrial habitats	Wetlands Avian fauna
Maintain hydrogeomorphological processes	Ecological flow Aesthetic and community flow Water level Ice regime
Water quality protection	Surface and groundwater quality
Soil Management	Soil quality
Preservation of traditional indigenous activities	Hunting / Trapping Fishing Harvesting
Maintaining recreational activities	Aesthetic and community flow
Climate change	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
Quality of life of the population	Economic impact Noise Landscape



These challenges, along with their associated valued components, will either be integrated into the design or mitigated through the application of appropriate measures during both construction and operation.

# Regulatory process



## Further information

The Canadian Impact Assessment Agency is analyzing the Onimiki project.  
Other federal departments are also analyzing the project (e.g. Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

# Kipawa reservoir management - current situation

Dates	Action
December 1 <sup>st</sup> to March 31	Emptying the reservoir to make room for the spring flood
From the end of the flood until September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Maintenance of the reservoir level
September 1 <sup>st</sup> to October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lowering for spawning
October 1 <sup>st</sup> to December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rise after 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 MELCCFP in accordance with the water levels set out in the Lac Kipawa 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.

# Physical environment

## Water and Sediment Quality - Results

Results of the Lake Ecological Integrity Assessment (MILQ) - Forthcoming

### Onimiki Nord study area

#### Water quality

- Lakes are minimally impacted by human activities (low-productivity lakes = oligotrophic)
- Chemical parameters of the lakes indicate generally good water quality
- The watercourses studied are also minimally disturbed by human activities, according to the IDEC, a biological indicator (Eastern Canada Diatom Index)

#### Sediment Quality

- Exceedances of certain Québec sediment quality assessment criteria were observed for metals (cadmium, nickel, lead, and zinc) and for sulfur

# A+ Physical environment

## Aquatic Environment- Results

- Delineation of the shoreline limit conducted in the field for Onimiki North study area
- Segmentation of the watercourse by flow type and substrate
  - Laniel study area: delineation based on photo interpretation using drone-acquired aerial imagery, as well as ground-level photographs taken at specific locations in 2022 and 2024 (example below for ground-level photographs)



15,8 m<sup>3</sup>/s



25,8 m<sup>3</sup>/s



50,9 m<sup>3</sup>/s

# Preliminary Impact Assessment - Kipawa River

## Examples of Anticipated Preliminary Mitigation Measures - Changes in Water Level / Flow

Avoidance measures :

- No works planned below the shoreline limit (within the watercourse)
- No critical habitat or residence of an aquatic species at risk identified in the Kipawa River

Mitigation measures :

- Ensure adequate flow in the Kipawa River during fish-sensitive periods (spawning) :
  - Power plant operations would be secondary to the maintenance of ecological flow
  - All spring-spawning species require flows that maintain key habitats during the period from April 15 to June 15
- Ensure flows that allow free fish passage, if required :
  - In the Kipawa River and its tributaries