

# WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD (WSR) PROJECT

## VEGETATION STUDY PLAN FACT SHEET

### What is the primary purpose of this Assessment?

To classify the vegetation present in the study area that may be affected by the WSR, as well as the species that inhabit those vegetation types.

### What is the study area for the potential effects on vegetation?

Study areas are used to define the geographic boundaries in which the Project may have environmental effects. At this stage, there are three general study areas:

- **Project Footprint (PF):** The area of direct disturbance (i.e., the physical area required for Project construction and operation);
- **Local Study Area (LSA):** The area where largely direct, and indirect effects of the Project are likely to be measurable; and
- **Regional Study Area (RSA):** The area where potential, largely indirect and cumulative effects of the Project in the broader, regional context may occur.



What is the timeline for potential effects on vegetation?



The Assessment process will consider both the short and long-term effects of the Project on vegetation.

The Project will occur in two phases:

- Construction phase; and
- Operations phase.

The Project is proposed to be operated for an indeterminate time period; therefore, retirement (decommissioning/abandonment/closure) is not anticipated and will not be considered in the Assessment.

## What are the terrain types that exist within the study area?

- Uplands (e.g., Eskers); and
- Lowlands (e.g., Peatlands/Wetlands).

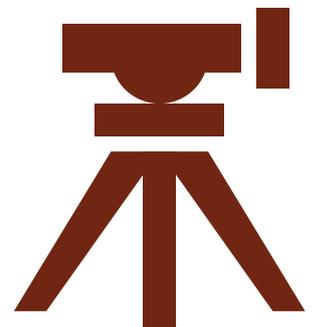
## What are the vegetation types present within the study area?

- Upland vegetation such as deciduous, mixed and coniferous forests ( e.g., Black Spruce, Jack Pine, Trembling Aspen, Balsam Poplar);
- Lowland vegetation found in mixed/coniferous swamps, bogs and fens;
- Riparian vegetation that is beside rivers and lakes, such as marshes and thicket swamps; and
- Indigenous plants that may be consumed or used for medicinal or spiritual purposes.

## Where is the information being gathered from?

A background data review from the following sources will be conducted to determine the diversity and integrity and vegetation within the study area:

- Aerial photography;
- Project LiDAR imagery and elevation data;
- Provincial GIS Datasets;
- Field guides and documents from previously conducted studies and projects within the study area;
- Field studies;
- Indigenous Knowledge;
- Survey sites in each vegetation type; and
- Survey of plants and soil.



## The importance of biodiversity and wetlands in this Assessment:

It is important to assess the number and distribution of species in the study area because the Project will create habitat fragmentation (where large sections of habitat are divided into smaller pieces). This has the potential to affect which species inhabit the various vegetation types that are being examined.

It is important to understand vegetation in relation to biodiversity and wetlands as wildlife rely on diverse vegetation types for survival and reproduction. This means that if the Project effects vegetation, it may also effect biodiversity and wetlands. Our understanding of the baseline biodiversity and how it functions with vegetation and wetlands will be characterized at three levels: **Species, Community and Landscape**.