

Services aux Autochtones Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones et
Affaires du Nord Canada

Housing and Infrastructure Projects

Federal Obligations Under the Impact Assessment Act and Funding

June 2025



Gouvernement
du Canada

Government
of Canada

Canada

WHY the Impact Assessment Act?

- For federal authorizations of YOUR PROJECTS!
- and
- For federal FUNDING of YOUR PROJECTS!

While protecting the ENVIRONMENT!



WHY in the Impact Assessment Act

SECTION 82 of the Impact Assessment Act:

ISC (and CMHC, and Industry Canada, and...) cannot **authorize** by law, nor **fund YOUR project** unless:

Determines that the project is not likely to cause **significant adverse environmental effects.**



Presentation Objectives

1. Develop your *MY PROJECT + EIA 82* reflex in a timely manner.

That is to say:

Be able to identify a *PROJECT* as defined by the *EIA* and inform ISC quickly.

2. Familiarize yourself with the environmental impact assessment process.



An *EIA82 PROJECT*

- A physical work (man made, fixed)
- AND**
- A CONCRETE ACTIVITY (building, installing, operating, modifying, demolishing, decommissioning, removing, replacing, etc.)
- AND**
- On FEDERAL LANDS (Reserve lands)

=

EIA82 PROJECT



A *PROJECT* Quiz!

Are these activities *EIA projects*?

Construction of a house on reserve land?

Answer: Yes

Construction of a house off reserve (federal) land?

Answer: No

Repair of a garbage truck on reserve land?

Answer: No

Demolition of a house on reserve land?

Answer: Yes

Preparing plans and specifications for building a house on reserve land?

Answer: No, with a BUT!



EIA82 Exclusions

- Cree-Naskapi: James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
- Inuit
- *Indian settlements*: Pakua Shipi, Kitcisakik, Winneway
- Project funded 100% with core or block funding, or with the promoter's own funds.
- Projects excluded by ministerial decree: determined by project, by ISC.



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Significant adverse environmental effects

- The changes caused to the environment* by the PROJECT
- and
- the repercussions (effects) of these environmental changes on ...
- indigenous peoples of Canada
- and on social, health and economic conditions*.



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When to initiate an EIA?

As early as possible in the project's life cycle, for example:

When discussing **where the project will be carried out**.

Needs analysis.

Design report.

At the beginning of plans and specifications? OK, but a little late.

Community development plan: Environmentally and culturally important areas to preserve



Why initiate an EIA early on?

An EIA can require, a little, some, a lot of time.

- Registry posting for 30 days.
- Some stages of an EIA take time or are carried out without snow cover: environmental site assessments, ecological characterizations.
- Some mitigation measures have an impact on work progress: migratory birds, fish spawning, etc.
- Sometimes the project is just not in the right place and has to be relocated. EX: wetlands.
- Exclusions may apply - check with ISC.
- What happens when ISC's environment team is informed of an incomplete or last-minute project? It's a bummer for everyone.



Who is responsible for carrying out the EIA?

The organization that will be responsible for completing the EIA is the promoter, who can entrust the mandate at the appropriate time to:

Consultant responsible for plans and specifications

Third-party project consultant

Tribal council

Other



COORDINATION

- Between federal authorities: One project, one EIA.
- With promoter
- With consultants
- With partners



EIA Process: WHAT AND HOW?

Gathering and analyzing information!

ISC Environmental Impact Assessment form.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's
Project Registry for public comment: 30 days*.

Voluntary indigenous community knowledge
(OCAP).

Community acceptability *.

Mitigation measures (next page).



EIA Process: WHAT AND HOW?

(part 2)

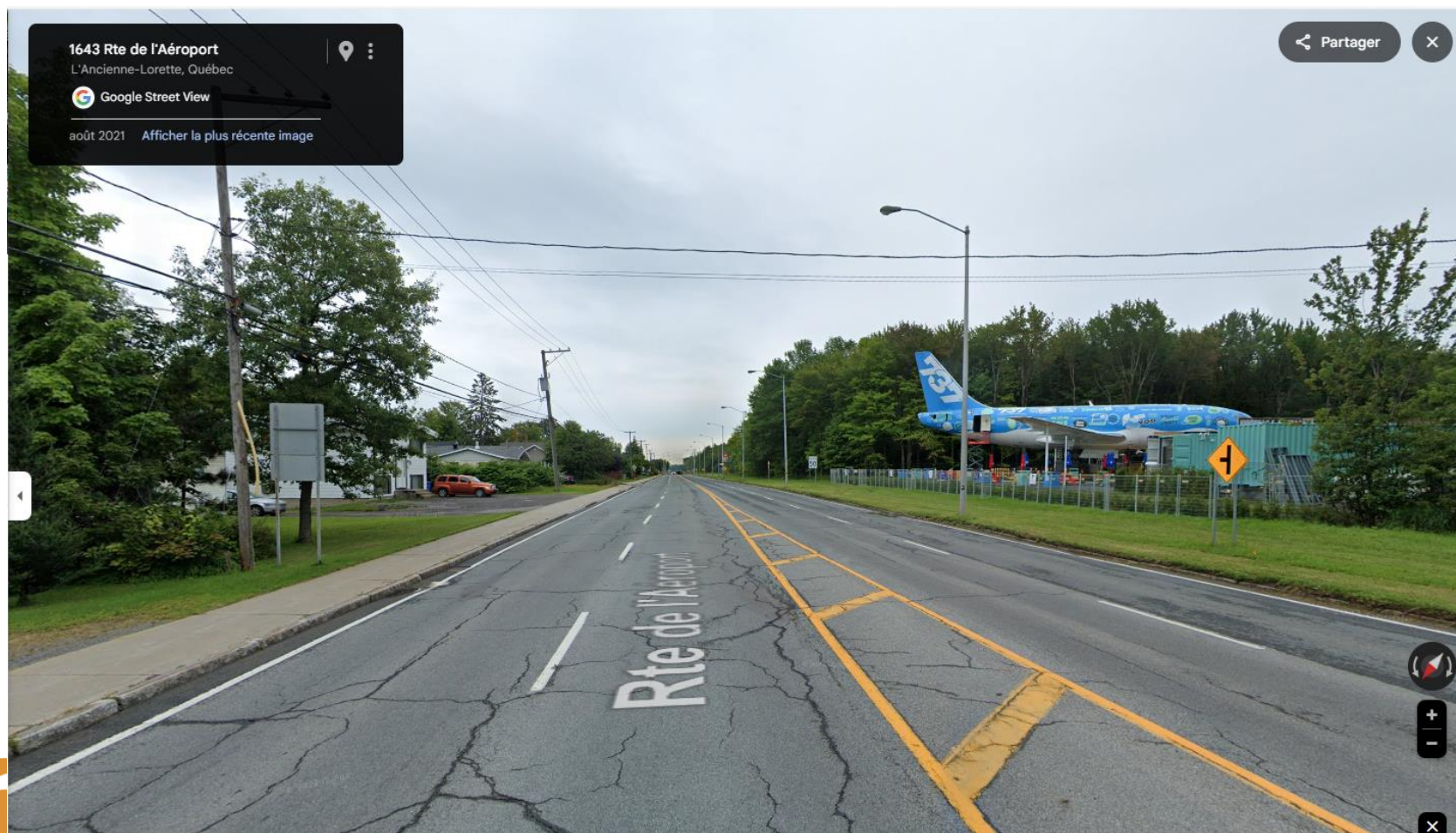
- **MITIGATION MEASURES** that are technically and economically feasible to mitigate the **significant adverse environmental effects** of the project *.
- and which the authority (ISC) is satisfied will be implemented. (ex: contract)*



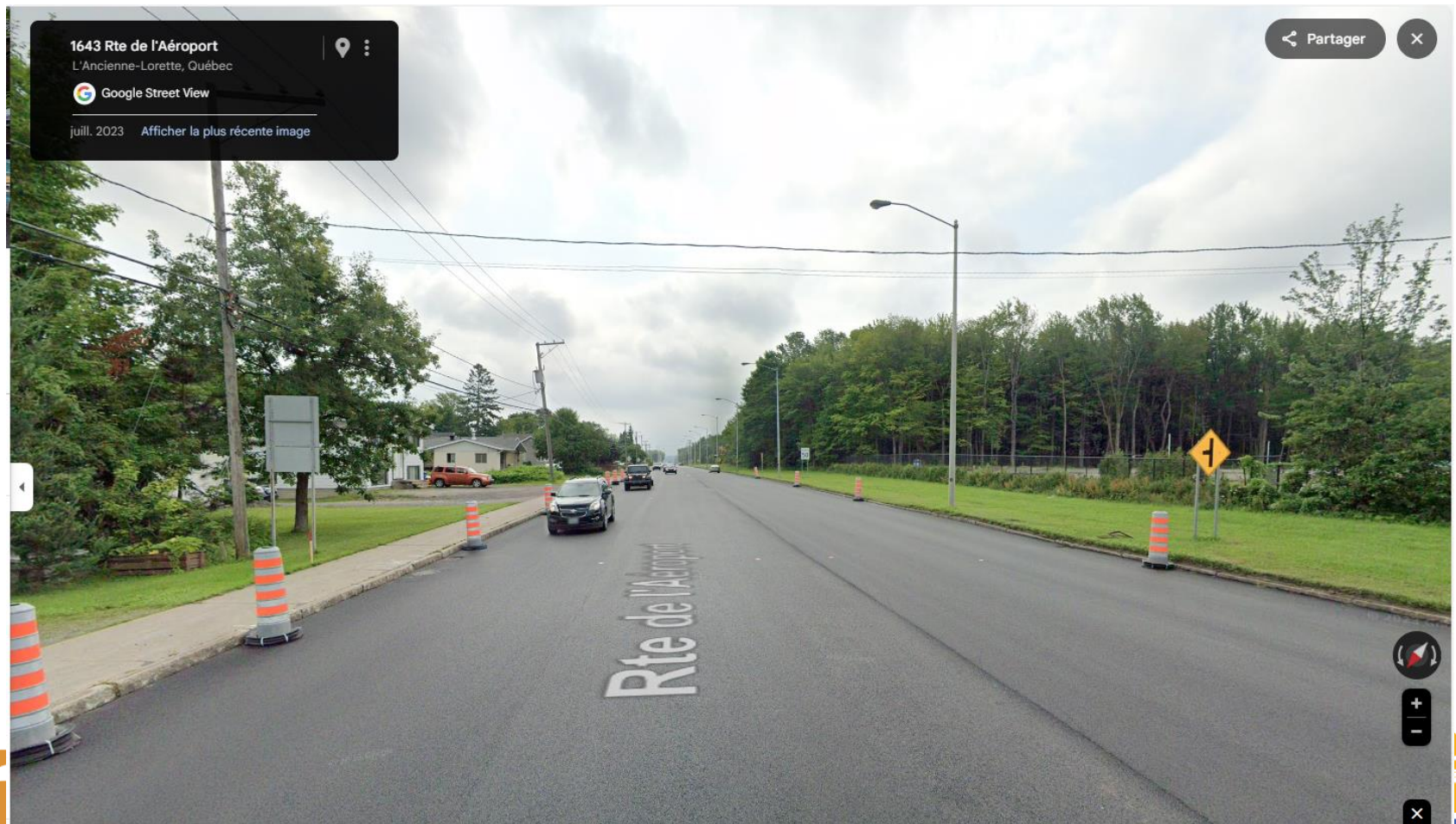
More concretely: 737



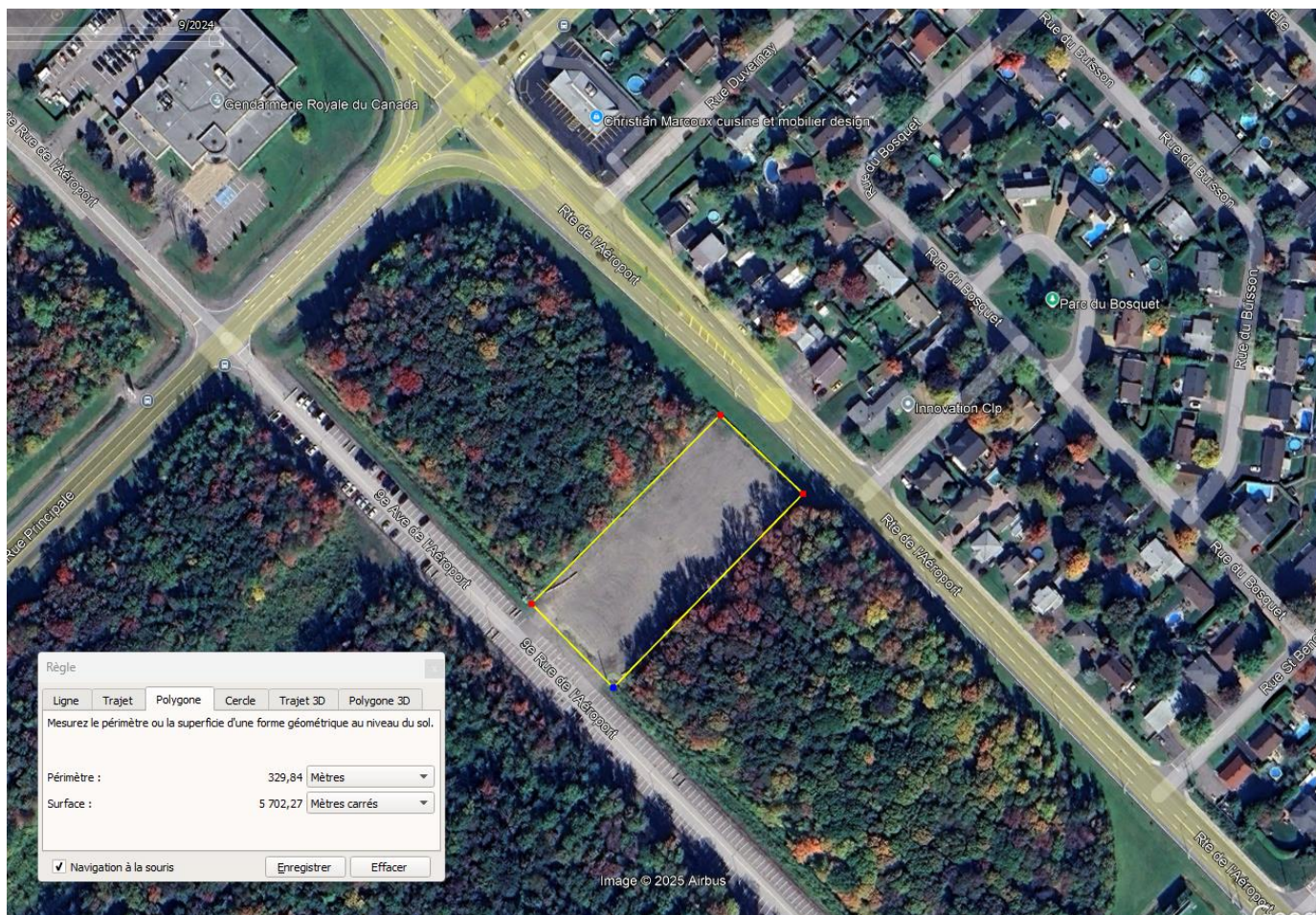
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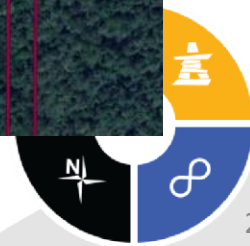
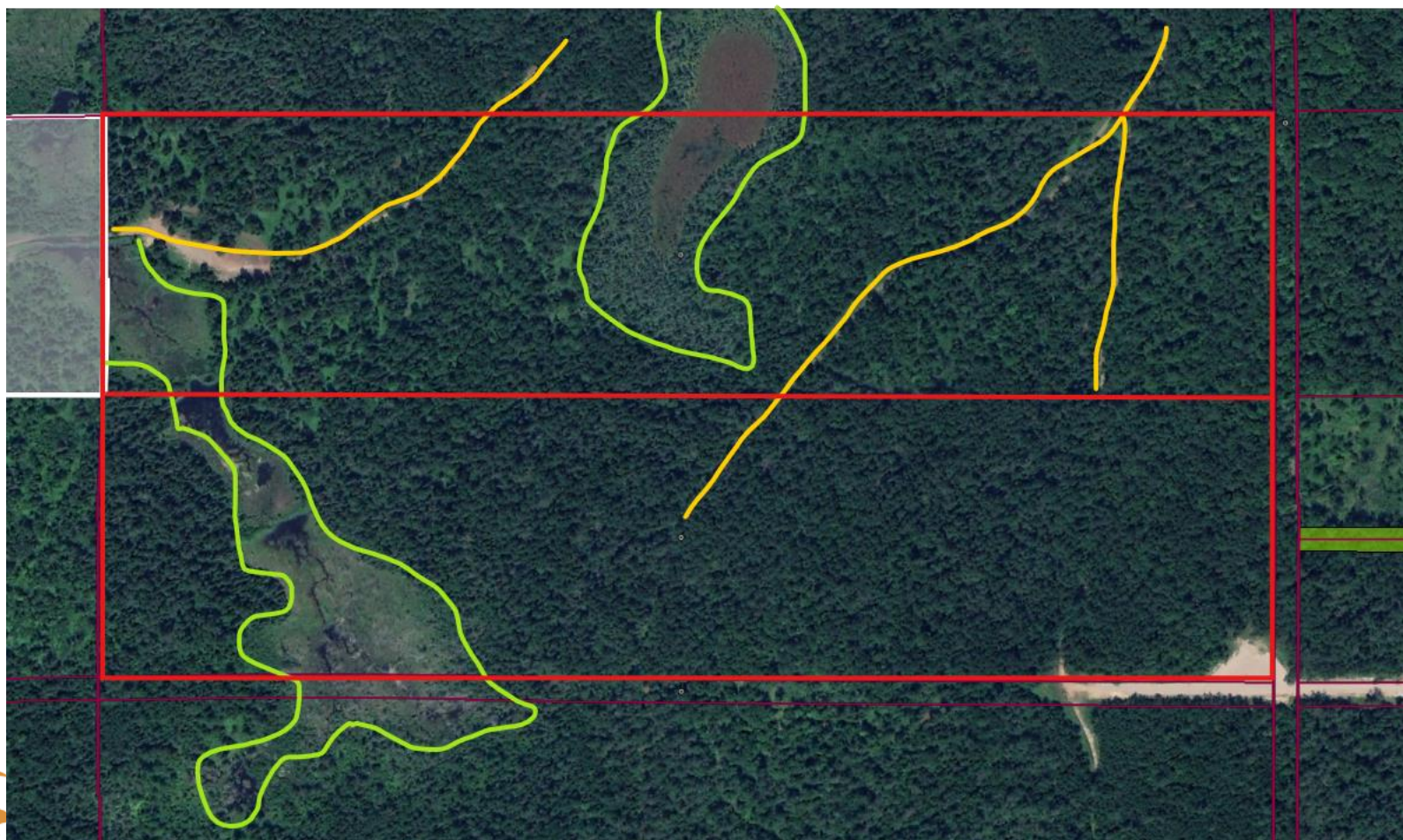
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More concretely : 737



More concretely 2: planning



RESOURCES

- [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry - Registry Home Page](#) (30 day posting)
- [ISC forms by category](#) (Environmental Review Process)
- [Canada Lands surveys: Tools and data - Natural Resources Canada](#) (federal lands)



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