

Feedback and IESO Responses

Long Lead-Time RFP

The IESO hosted a public webinar on November 12, 2025, to provide an overview of the Long Lead-Time Request for Proposals (RFP) and its design considerations. The webinar was provided in two parts, an overview and targeted discussions with municipalities and Indigenous communities.

The IESO received written feedback submissions from:

- [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#)
- [Township of Puslinch](#)
- [Caldwell First Nation](#)

Each presentation and the webinar recording, along with the IESO's responses to feedback are available on the [Long-Term RFP webpage](#)

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Responses

The IESO appreciates receiving feedback from participants about our work. The responses to the feedback about this study are organized by topic.

Long Lead-Time RFP

Topic	IESO Response to Feedback
<p>The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) supports the IESO's proposal to build in similar requirements for siting and for municipal engagement and support confirmations as the Long-Term 2 RFP into the Long Lead-Time procurement design.</p> <p>AMO emphasizes practical considerations for a successful RFP implementation, including regulatory and process alignment, transparency and timelines of the Long Lead-Time RFP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities have a role in ensuring source water protection and recommend the IESO engage with the province to align RFP timelines with provincial source water protection approvals and should clearly communicate where source water protection decisions should be addressed in the process. • AMO advocates for more informed municipal decision-making by ensuring that developers address source water concerns during municipal engagement and by providing transparency about the status and outcomes of Indigenous engagement; with the upcoming 2026 municipal election, AMO also advises that the IESO may wish to plan for post-election outreach and training for incoming councils. • AMO highlighted the 2026 municipal election and the timings, noting the key dates where the "restricted acts" periods may come into effect, recommending that the IESO sets deadlines for municipal support confirmation before these dates. 	<p>We thank the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their insights as part of the IESO's design considerations for the Long Lead-Time RFP and we are pleased to respond.</p> <p>Under the Clean Water Act, source protection plans contain a series of locally developed policies that, as they are implemented, protect existing and future sources of municipal drinking water. As part of the upcoming engagement with developers, the IESO will remind proponents to consult the source protection plan for the municipality in which they are intending to locate and be prepared to discuss this with the municipality, if applicable. Project developers are required to follow all applicable Laws and Regulations.</p> <p>In addition, project developers will be encouraged to provide municipalities with Indigenous engagement updates, especially in instances where Indigenous communities may be unsupportive of projects.</p> <p>The IESO continues to encourage early engagement with municipalities and is proposing a change to the timing for delivering of the Pre-Engagement Confirmation Notice. Under LT2, it was required to be delivered at least 60 days prior to Proposal submission; for LLT, it must be delivered at least 60 days prior to the date of the Municipal Support Confirmation. This 60-day period is the minimum RFP requirement; communities may require more time after receiving the notice to decide on issuing support.</p> <p>The IESO initially proposed that the Municipal Support Confirmation (MSC) be dated no later than August 21, 2026, as reflected in recent draft documents. Following further engagement with AMO, the IESO has decided to remove the "no-later-than" limitation around when the MSC can be issued. This provides municipalities who can act after that date the ability to do so. Proponents remain responsible for coordinating with municipalities to</p>

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	understand any implications of the 2026 Municipal election and to ensure that the MSC is obtained prior to Proposal submission. The IESO can confirm that it is working on post-election outreach plans to build awareness with incoming councils.
<p>The Township of Puslinch expressed the desire for the IESO to change its requirement for municipalities to issue a Municipal Support Confirmations (MSC) before local planning approvals, and the public engagement process has been completed.</p> <p>In their feedback submission, they raised concerns that should a project not be approved by the IESO, or should other approvals be denied, the municipality may face real or perceived risks to financial liabilities, administrative costs, legal challenges, and public trust. They advise the IESO to revise its RFP framework to align the issuing of a MSC with the conclusion of a planning or public engagement process. They believe that their suggested sequence would place municipalities in a better position to support a project and would ensure proponents have assurances of local approvals.</p>	<p>We thank you for your thoughtful feedback. Municipalities across Ontario play a critical role in Ontario's energy future and will help to ensure that the province can reliably meet the need for more electricity.</p> <p>The approach and timing for Municipal Support Confirmations (MSC) is a matter of government policy set by the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Municipalities can decide what activities need to be completed prior to issuing municipal support for a project.</p> <p>It should be noted that an MSC does not guarantee that a project will be awarded an IESO contract and does not supersede any appropriate permits or approvals (zoning, environmental etc.) under applicable Laws and Regulations.</p>
<p>Caldwell First Nation highlighted significant challenges in accessing affordable capital and underscored the ongoing need for financial and capacity-building resources, including continued funding to support community participation and technical readiness.</p>	<p>The IESO appreciates Caldwell First Nation's thoughtful feedback and their commitment to meaningful participation in Ontario's energy projects.</p> <p>Capacity funding will remain available through the IESO's Indigenous Energy Support Program to support community capacity building and engagement, as well as the building of energy knowledge and awareness, and skills related to energy projects. Indigenous communities can also access the Indigenous Opportunities Financing Program (IOFP) which is a provincial initiative that advances economic reconciliation by enabling Indigenous partners to participate financially in</p>

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	Ontario infrastructure projects. It is administered by the Building Ontario Fund and has recently expanded to a \$3 billion loan-guarantee envelope to increase Indigenous equity ownership opportunities.
Caldwell First Nation noted that industry timelines frequently do not align with Indigenous governance structures, community decision-making processes, or consultation requirements, making flexibility essential—particularly regarding the timing of partnership documentation and the finalization of Indigenous equity positions.	<p>The IESO believes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation are critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario.</p> <p>As such, the IESO will seek to build on and evolve Indigenous support and engagement requirements with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Indigenous Participation Levels (IPL) need to be established at time of Proposal submission to ensure that they can be factored into Proposal evaluation. However an Indigenous Community, with at least 10% economic interest, can request a one-time reduction in the IPL before the fifth anniversary of Commercial Operation Date, at which time the Initial Indigenous Participation Level may be lowered to no less than the Minimum Reduced IPL.</p>
Caldwell First Nation raised issues around the complexity of deal structures, stressing the need for strong legal and financial advisors, as well as the importance of simplifying information so it is accessible to non-technical community members.	<p>IESO will continue to refine our materials to ensure they are clear, understandable, and appropriate for both technical and non-technical audiences.</p> <p>As part of the process to issuing an Indigenous Support Confirmation, Indigenous communities are encouraged to ask proponents for the details the community deems necessary to best understand the project and make the decision on whether or not to award the Support Confirmation.</p>
Caldwell First Nation called for long-term, sustained, and adaptive engagement, supported by transparent information flow and clear definitions of roles and responsibilities.	The IESO remains committed to engaging with Indigenous communities early in its procurement design and planning processes. These opportunities will include formal outreach, targeted webinars and individual meetings, as needed.

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<p>Caldwell First Nation emphasized the importance of integrating Indigenous values, governance principles, and economic opportunities into project development, including the application of Two-Eyed Seeing to braid Western and Indigenous knowledge systems.</p>	<p>The IESO welcomes ongoing Indigenous community feedback throughout the RFP design process. The IESO continues to work collaboratively with municipalities, proponents and Indigenous communities to help advance efforts toward project success.</p>
<p>Caldwell First Nation encouraged proponents to adopt approaches that incentivize collaboration and strengthen partnerships over the long term.</p>	<p>The IESO strongly encourages proponents to engage with all potentially impacted Indigenous communities early and throughout the process of project development.</p> <p>For instance, policies related to obtaining Indigenous support have applied as part of earlier iterations of long-term procurements and there are now mandatory requirements under both the LT2 RFP and the LLT RFP requiring proponents to demonstrate Indigenous support where a project intends to locate on Indigenous Lands.</p>