



### 1. Study Objectives

This study describes and characterizes the individuals and businesses that form part of the economy and supply chain network within the Local Study Area (LSA)<sup>1</sup> and Regional Study Area (RSA)<sup>2</sup> that might support the NWMO project.

**Key Planning Assumptions:** Labour categories and the associated goods and services that are required by the Project during the different project phases.

#### Ignace Economic Development Aspirations

- Enhance strategies to sustain and support local businesses while diversifying the economy.
- Increase business activity and employment opportunities through the Project in the community.
- Increase household income through project employment, contracting, and associated opportunities.

#### Other Communities in the Kenora District

- Communities in the Kenora District are also focused on community growth and development.
- Each community has its own unique area of focus but collaborate in areas of common interest such as tourism and housing.



### 2. Key Findings

#### **Baseline (existing conditions):**

- The LSA contains many small businesses that currently meet most local needs for goods and services.
- The RSA in comparison to the LSA has a larger and more diverse suite of industries and services.
- Most of Ignace household spending takes place in Dryden and Sioux Lookout where local businesses are concentrated.

**Forecast without the Project:** The LSA economy and supporting businesses will see modest growth opportunities. The scale of businesses in Thunder Bay and Winnipeg makes it difficult for LSA businesses to compete.

**Forecast with the Project:** Opportunities for new or expanded businesses to support the project in the LSA have the potential to create economic diversification and foster employment.



### 3. Next Steps

- Build capacity of businesses within the LSA to leverage opportunities for the Project. This may include a combination of: training, awareness building, and business to business networking.
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with others to support on-going initiatives to develop labour and business capacity.
- Identify opportunities for local business procurement associated with each phase of the project with an early focus on pre-construction.

<sup>1</sup> The Local Study Area (LSA) consists of communities generally within one hour drive time (commuting) of the project site.

<sup>2</sup> Regional Study Area (RSA) Includes the Kenora District, Town of Atikokan, Town of Marathon, City of Greater Sudbury, City of Thunder Bay, City of Steinbach, and City of Winnipeg.