

# Schedule B – Assessment Plan

FOR THE  
NEW POLARIS GOLD MINE PROJECT

PROPOSED BY  
CANAGOLD

ISSUED BY  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

MARCH 4, 2025



**EAO**

Environmental  
Assessment Office

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# Assessment Plan

## NEW POLARIS GOLD MINE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The New Polaris Gold Mine Project (New Polaris) is a proposed underground gold mine located in northwestern British Columbia (B.C.), 100 kilometres (km) south of Atlin, B.C., and 60 km northeast of Juneau, Alaska, on the west bank of the Tulsequah River. New Polaris is proposed on a former mine site known as the Polaris Taku mine and would produce an estimated 3.7 million tonnes of ore over a 10-year operating mine life. New Polaris entered Early Engagement under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018) (the Act) on March 27, 2023, with the acceptance of the Initial Project Description and the Engagement Plan.

### 2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Assessment Plan is to specify, for each subsequent phase of the environmental assessment (EA) for New Polaris:

- The procedures for the assessment;
- Who will be engaged in the development and review of information produced during the EA and associated timelines;
- Who will be engaged in the EA, and the means and timelines by which they will be engaged; and,
- Roles and responsibilities of each of the EA participants, which includes:
  - The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO);
  - Canagold Resources Ltd. (Canagold);
  - Participating Indigenous nations;
  - Local governments;
  - Alaska Tribes;
  - The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and;
  - The public and stakeholders.

The Assessment Plan is divided into the subsequent phases of the EA, which include:

- Application Development and Review;
- Effects Assessment and Recommendation; and,
- Decision.

### 3.0 CONSULTATION WITH FIRST NATIONS

The Act establishes that one of the purposes of the EAO is to support reconciliation with First Nations peoples in B.C. Recognizing that each First Nation is unique, the EAO seeks to work with all potentially affected First Nations to understand how their distinct rights, interests, and relationship to their territory might interact with a proposed project. Below is a description of how the EAO will consult with First Nations, including participating Indigenous nations, during the EA consistent with its purpose of supporting reconciliation with First Nations peoples in B.C. Indigenous interests are

described as interests related to a First Nation and their rights recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the [Constitution Act, 1982](#), including Treaty rights and Aboriginal rights and title that may be impacted by the Project.

### 3.1. Participating Indigenous Nations

Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) have identified as participating Indigenous nations for the purpose of the assessment of New Polaris in accordance with [Section 14](#) of the Act. Participating Indigenous nations are afforded specific procedural rights under the Act, including consensus-seeking processes, a procedure to communicate consent or lack of consent at specific decision points, and access to facilitated dispute resolution. For more information on participating Indigenous nations please see the [EAO's guidance materials](#).

The EAO will continue to collaborate with participating Indigenous nations as described in the roles and responsibilities tables of this Assessment Plan below and in [Section 5.1](#).

### 3.2. Engagement with Alaska Tribes

The EAO will notify Alaska Tribes<sup>1</sup> during the New Polaris EA process at five key milestones:

- Receipt of the Canagold's Application for an EA Certificate under [Section 27](#) of the Act;
- Public comment periods required by [Sections 27\(2\)\(a\)](#) and [28\(2\)\(b\)](#) of the Act;
- Acceptance of any revised Application, if applicable, under [Section 27\(4\)](#) of the Act;
- Referral to Ministers for decision on an EA Certificate under [Section 29](#) of the Act; and,
- Issuance of any legal orders issued under the Act in relation to the New Polaris EA.

The EAO's engagement approach with Alaska Tribes to date has included updating five Tribes at key milestones of the EA process to provide the opportunity for the Tribes to review and comment on documents during the EA steps undertaken to date (e.g., initial project description and draft process order).

## 4.0 APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

Within this phase there are two main stages:

1. Development of Canagold's Application; and
2. Review of Canagold's Application [180-day legislated timeline].

### 4.1. Application Development

At the beginning of Process Planning, the proponent will be asked to indicate its expected timelines for the documents in support of Application Development and the Application. These timelines will be considered when issuing the Assessment Plan. The Assessment Plan will specify the timeline for the review of materials provided to members of the TAC and participating Indigenous nations.

After the EAO issues the Process Order, including this Assessment Plan, the Application Information Requirements, and the Regulatory Coordination Plan, the Project moves into the Application Development stage. During Application Development, Canagold will develop their Application in alignment with the Process Order. The EAO, participating Indigenous nations, and members of the TAC are engaged by Canagold and provide input during the development of the

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<sup>1</sup> Alaska Tribes are being notified in accordance with the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) and the Statement of Cooperation on the Protection of Transboundary Waters between the State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia. Alaska Tribes and organizations to be notified of New Polaris milestones include: Angoon Community Association, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Douglas Indian Association, Hoonah Indian Association, and the Organized Village of Kake.

Application. The duration of this stage is at the discretion of Canagold, however, the information required in the Application Information Requirements is to be provided within three years from the date of issuance of the Process Order, or the Minister or Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO) may terminate the assessment as set out in [Section 39\(b\)](#) of the Act.

### *Deliverables*

1. Engagement Log – Canagold maintains an engagement log summarizing which documents were provided for review prior to the Application being submitted to the EAO, when they were provided, and identifying to whom they were provided;
2. Issues tracking document – Canagold must outline any feedback received on the documents provided for review and how the feedback was addressed. This tracking document is submitted to the EAO with the Application; and
3. Application – Canagold submits its Application at the end of Application development to the EAO for review.

### *Timeline*

The expected timelines for providing information to reviewers in support of Application development is identified in the Application Information Requirements.

### *Roles and Responsibilities*

Table 1 outlines a list of required roles and responsibilities of the EA participants during the Application Development stage. The roles and responsibilities of the TAC are further detailed in the [TAC Terms of Reference Guideline](#).

Table 1: Roles and Responsibilities of EA Participants during Application Development

Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
Canagold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an Application for an EA Certificate.</li> <li>• Conduct studies to provide required information identified in the Application Information Requirements including information to support the assessment of effects of New Polaris on participating Indigenous nations and their Section 35 rights and Indigenous interests.</li> <li>• Discuss data collection with appropriate provincial agencies and identify any data to be submitted to provincial warehouses where these exist at the time of submission of the revised Application (See Effects Assessment Policy <a href="#">here</a>).</li> <li>• Engage with EA participants to assist with development of the Application and, as directed by the EAO, to address issues raised.</li> <li>• Track and address feedback received during Application development.</li> <li>• Engage with participating Indigenous nations on proposed approaches to the collection of baseline information and whether contingencies meet current scientific standards, best management practices and the confidences of participating Indigenous nations and the EAO, and if they accurately capture the current knowledge for the local assessment area.</li> <li>• Obtain information for inclusion in the Application from participating Indigenous nations, including Indigenous knowledge.</li> <li>• Collaborate with participating Indigenous nations on the development of components of the Application, if agreed to.</li> <li>• Engage with the EAO to request feedback and recommendations prior to, and during, development of Application.</li> </ul>
EAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage as necessary and upon request to provide Canagold feedback and recommendations prior to, and during, development of the Application.</li> <li>• Follow progress of Canagold's development of the Application and facilitate engagement of participating Indigenous nations and members of the TAC by Canagold as per established plan in the Application Information Requirements.</li> <li>• Engage, as necessary, to attempt to resolve issues identified in Canagold's engagement during the development of the Application and any issues identified by participating Indigenous nations</li> <li>• Work with provincial, federal, and United States agencies to identify and resolve any policy gaps and provide regulatory context to EA participants.</li> <li>• Facilitate issues resolution and information sharing as required.</li> <li>• May instruct Canagold to work with participating Indigenous nations to gather and incorporate Indigenous knowledge to be applied throughout the EA process. participating Indigenous nations may work with proponents to include this</li> </ul>

Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
	<p>knowledge in the Application or it may be provided in some other format. More information can be found in the <a href="#">Guide to Indigenous Knowledge in Environmental Assessments</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide participating Indigenous nations with guidance on how to protect confidential information, if provided.</li> </ul>
Participating Indigenous nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May provide information, including Indigenous knowledge to be applied throughout the EA process. Participating Indigenous nations may work with Canagold to include this knowledge in the Application or it may be provided in some other format.</li> <li>Engage with Canagold on the development of relevant portions of the Application.</li> <li>May review and provide input to Canagold during the development of the Application.</li> <li>Building off discussions during Early Engagement regarding understanding of Indigenous interests, identify potential impacts of the project on the participating Indigenous nation(s) and their Section 35 rights and Indigenous interests to Canagold to assist in Application development.</li> <li>May undertake community engagement and inform Canagold and the EAO on community engagement requirements.</li> <li>Advise Canagold and the EAO of any additional information, process or timeline requirements, to guide Canagold's preparation of the Application.</li> <li>Engage in consensus-seeking with the EAO pursuant to the Act.</li> </ul>
Alaska Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Canagold and the EAO if requested to provide Canagold with information prior to, and during, development of the Application regarding potential transboundary impacts to the five Alaska Tribes.</li> </ul>
Local bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide input to Canagold during the development of the Application.</li> <li>Participate in the TAC.</li> <li>Participate as identified with the EAO in the local government's engagement plan.</li> </ul>
TAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide input to Canagold during the development of the Application, including the methods to consider the matters referenced in <a href="#">Section 25(2)</a> of the Act as per the Application Information Requirements.</li> <li>Participate in any TAC meetings and calls led by the EAO.</li> <li>Agencies: Identify and address regulatory issues and any policy or technical gaps.</li> </ul>

## 4.2. Application Review

In the Application review portion of this phase, the EAO leads the review of Canagold's Application, submitted under [Section 27](#) of the Act, with participating Indigenous nations and issues a notice to Canagold respecting the Application. Application Review will include review and comment periods on the Application by the members of the TAC, participating Indigenous nations, the public, and Alaska Tribes. These reviews may result in information requests issued to Canagold by the EAO informed by advice provided by the TAC and participating Indigenous nations, and input from the public and Alaska Tribes. Canagold is responsible for responding to the information requests generated within the timelines provided by the EAO.

There is a 180-day legislated timeline from the submission of the Application for the EAO to issue the Notice of Application Revision to Canagold, directing them to prepare a Revised Application in response to the issues and information requests raised. The EAO will seek agreement with participating Indigenous nations on any matters that pertains to their interests to include in the EAO's notice to Canagold respecting the revised Application. Once Canagold prepares and submits a revised Application, and prior to the decision on whether to accept the revised Application, the EAO will seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations as to whether or not the revised Application contains the information required by the Process Order and responds to matters set out in the Notice of Application Revision.

**Allotted Days/Dates:** up to 180 days (legislated timeline) following submission of Application.

**Public engagement requirement:** minimum 30-day public comment period held on the EAO's Project Information Centre (EPIC) website. During the public comment period, the EAO will hold (an) open house(s) to provide information on the EA

process and the Project, respectively. The public comment period and open house(s) will be advertised by Canagold and coordinated by the EAO a minimum of seven days in advance of the public comment period commencing.

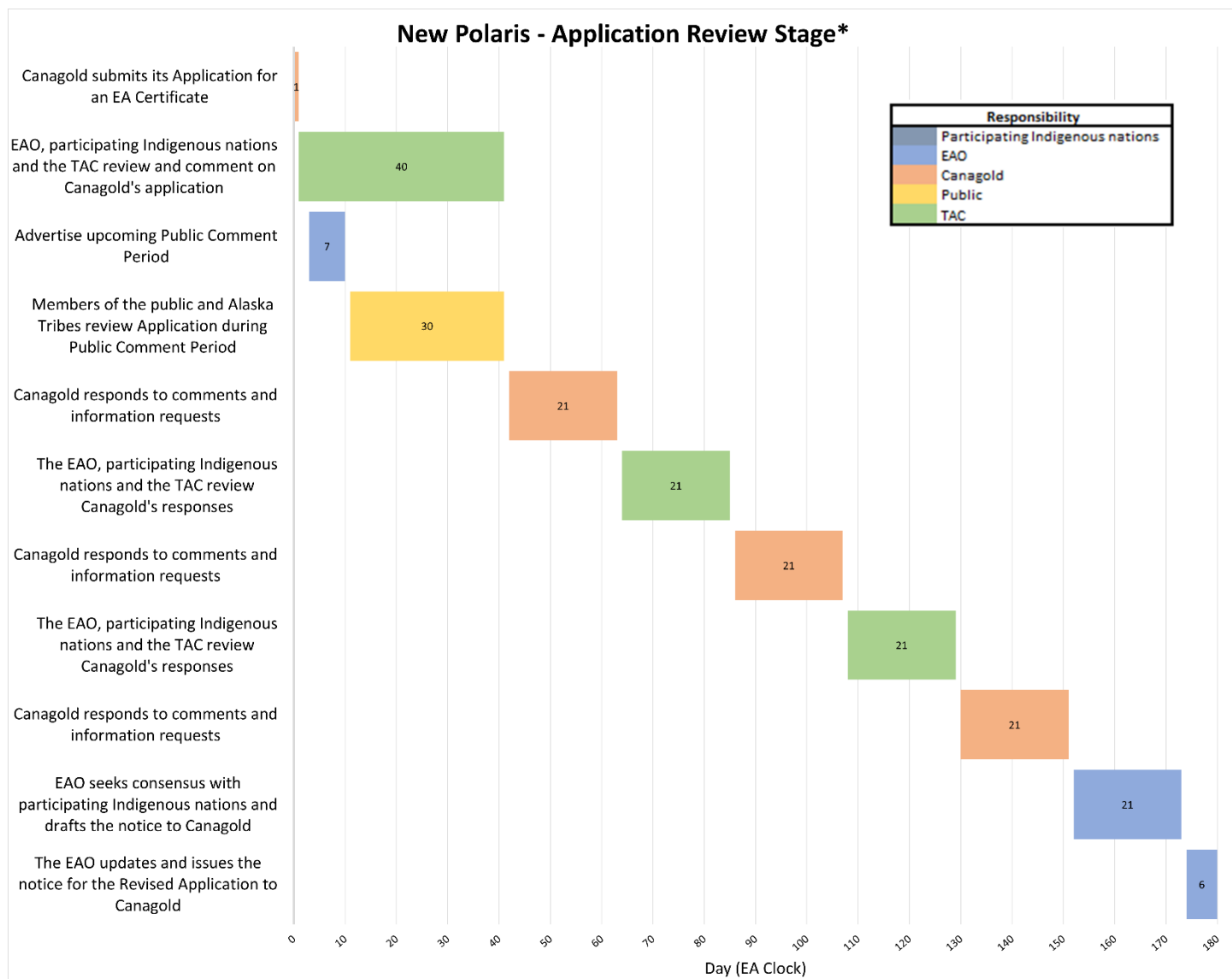
### *Deliverables*

The following deliverables will be developed during the Application Review stage:

1. Information requests are issued to Canagold by the EAO informed by advice provided by the TAC, participating Indigenous nations, and input from the public and Alaska Tribes;
2. Canagold's responses to information requests and to any comments from participating Indigenous nations, the TAC, the public, and Alaska Tribes, as directed by the EAO;
3. Public Engagement Report, submitted by Canagold to the EAO within 30 days of the close of the public comment period on the Application, consistent with the approved Public Engagement Plan;
4. The EAO to issue Notice of Application Revision under Section 27(2)(b) of the Act to Canagold respecting the Application;
5. Revised Application submitted by Canagold to the EAO addressing the requirements in the Notice of Application Revision, if applicable;
6. Specific data and reports from Canagold to the EAO in support of Application Review (see the Effect Assessment Policy found [here](#) for the types of data that may be submitted).
7. Notice of Application Acceptance, in which the EAO confirms that the Application meets the requirements of the Process Order and, if applicable, the Notice of Application Revision.

### *Timeline*

Figure 1 presents how this phase is broken up (for example standard review times for EA participants of Canagold's Application, timing of public comment period, opportunity to provide advice to inform information requests, and the proponent's timelines to respond to comments and information requests from participating Indigenous nations, any other First Nations, members of the TAC, the public, and Alaska Tribes). The timelines in the Assessment Plan may further be detailed in a Project Work Plan that is developed by the EAO through engagement with Canagold, participating Indigenous nations, any other First Nations and members of the TAC.



**Figure 1: Anticipated Schedule and Timelines During Application Review**

### *Roles and Responsibilities*

Table 2 is a list of potential and required roles and responsibilities of the EA participants during the Application Review stage.

*Table 2: Roles and Responsibilities of EA Participants during Application Review*

Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
Canagold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to comments and information requests issued by the EAO within the timelines set by the EAO.</li> <li>Record the concerns raised by all EA participants and measures being implemented to avoid, reduce or otherwise address them.</li> <li>Submit engagement reports to the EAO within 30 days of the close of the public comment period on the Application.</li> <li>Participate in TAC meetings and public engagement as required by the EAO.</li> <li>Engage participating Indigenous nations to ensure required information regarding potential effects on the participating Indigenous nation and their rights is provided.</li> <li>Revise the Application based on the EAO's notice and document changes made and supporting rationale, if applicable.</li> </ul>



Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
EAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit any identified data to the EAO and provincial warehouses where they exist (see the Effects Assessment Policy <a href="#">here</a>) within 60 days of the submission of the revised Application.</li> <li>Review Canagold's Application against the Process Order and seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations on the sufficiency of the Application and whether the baseline information and/or contingencies set out in the Application meet the confidences of participating Indigenous nations and the Province, and if the Application accurately captures the current knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge for the Project and study areas.</li> <li>Post the Application for public review and comment, administer the public comment period through the EAO's EPIC website.</li> <li>Review Canagold's Public Engagement Report.</li> <li>Conduct engagement with the public, Alaska Tribes and participating Indigenous nations in accordance with this Assessment Plan.</li> <li>Post Canagold's responses to comments on EPIC.</li> <li>Lead the TAC review of the Application and development of information requests.</li> <li>Issue information requests to Canagold, in consideration of participating Indigenous nations, TAC, public or Alaska Tribes input.</li> <li>Lead the TAC including meetings, calls and provide a secretariat role for these committees.</li> <li>Facilitate issue resolution as required.</li> <li>Identify the need for independent advice, with advice from participating Indigenous nations and members of the TAC.</li> <li>Track information requests and responses, provide them to participating Indigenous nations, any other First Nation and members of the TAC to review adequacy of responses, and post to EPIC.</li> <li>Follow up on timelines for participating Indigenous nations, any other First nations and members of the TAC to provide comments and for Canagold to respond to information requests.</li> <li>Maintain a consensus tracking tool to keep track of any issues on which the EAO and participating Indigenous nations have not reached consensus on the Application or Revised Application.</li> <li>Update the Regulatory Coordination Plan with details with respect to how issues are or will be addressed through the EA and other regulatory requirements or government initiatives, if applicable.</li> <li>Facilitate information flow between participating Indigenous nations and members of the TAC as necessary.</li> <li>Pro-actively and collaboratively identify matters for the Notice of Application Revision issued to Canagold with participating Indigenous nations.</li> <li>Issue Notice of Application Revision to Canagold.</li> <li>Review Canagold's Revised Application against the Application Information Requirements and the EAO's Notice of Application Revision and seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations on the sufficiency of the Revised Application.</li> <li>Issue a Notice of Application Acceptance once the EAO confirms that the Application meets the requirements of the Process Order and the Notice of Application Revision.</li> <li>Provide notifications to Alaska Tribes, as set out in section 3.2 of this Assessment Plan.</li> </ul>
Participating Indigenous nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide feedback on the Application and Revised Application, including providing feedback on potential effects of the Project on participating Indigenous nations and their Section 35 rights and Indigenous interests, and proposed mitigation measures, and collaborative development of information requests with the EAO.</li> <li>Review and assesses the adequacy of Canagold's responses to comments on the Application and information requests.</li> <li>Participate in TAC meetings and calls when possible.</li> <li>Engage government to government with the EAO.</li> <li>Pro-actively and collaboratively identify matters to be included in the Notice of Application Revision to Canagold</li> <li>Participate in consensus-seeking with the EAO on the sufficiency of the Application and Revised Application.</li> <li>Engage with and report back to the community.</li> </ul>
Alaska Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide feedback on the Application including providing feedback on potential transboundary effects of the Project on Alaska Tribes and proposed mitigation measures, during the public comment period or other timelines established by the EAO.</li> <li>Review and assesses the adequacy of Canagold's responses to comments on the Application and information requests, if requested, within timelines established by the EAO.</li> <li>Engage with and report back to the community, if desired.</li> </ul>

Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
Local bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify potential effects of New Polaris on their community and areas of interest to local governments.</li> <li>Review and provide advice on the Application.</li> <li>Review and assess the adequacy of Canagold's responses.</li> <li>Participate in TAC meetings and calls.</li> <li>Provide advice as requested by the EAO during the review of the Revised Application.</li> </ul>
TAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide advice on Application, including the methods to consider the matters referenced in Section 25 of the Act.</li> <li>Participate in TAC meetings and calls led by the EAO.</li> <li>Work with the EAO and other TAC members to define information requests for specific additional information required.</li> <li>Review new information or issues raised during public comment periods, provide advice to the EAO as required to inform responses.</li> <li>Attend public open houses and other public forums, upon request of the EAO and based on capacity.</li> <li>Provide advice as requested by the EAO during the review of the Revised Application.</li> <li>Agencies collaborate with the EAO during the updating of the Regulatory Coordination Plan to provide details with respect to how issues will be addressed through the EA and other regulatory requirements or government initiatives.</li> </ul>
Public and Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify potential effects of the project.</li> <li>Submit comments to EPIC during public comment period.</li> <li>Participate in public engagement activities of the EAO and Canagold.</li> </ul>

## 5.0 EFFECTS ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

The decision to accept the revised Application under [Section 27\(4\)](#) of the Act marks the beginning of this phase. The notice of acceptance of the revised Application is posted to the EAO's website.

In the Effects Assessment and Recommendation phases, the EAO works with participating Indigenous nations and engages members of the TAC and Alaska Tribes, if appropriate, and Canagold to complete an assessment of the project. The EAO develops a draft referral package for a decision that will include a draft Assessment Report and draft EA Certificate (the Certificate), including proposed conditions and project description (draft Referral Package). The EAO must seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations on the draft Referral Package.

The EAO conducts a minimum 30-day public comment period on the draft Referral Package and addresses comments received before the referral to ministers. During the public comment period participating Indigenous nations can provide notice of consent or lack of consent to issuing the Certificate and reasons for their decision. Upon completion of the public comment period, the EAO seeks consensus with participating Indigenous nations to finalize the Referral Package in response to comments received during the public comment period.

The Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO) develops recommendations regarding whether New Polaris is consistent with the promotion of sustainability ([Section 29\(2\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) of the Act), the required assessment matters under Section 25 of the Act, the duration of the Certificate, and reasons for the recommendation. The CEAO must seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations on the CEAO's recommendations regarding the matters identified in [Section 29\(2\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) of the Act. At this stage, the CEAO builds upon the consensus-seeking that occurred during the finalization of the Referral Package which directly informs the Minister's decision as to whether to issue an EA Certificate for the project. There is an opportunity for participating Indigenous nations or the EAO to trigger dispute resolution if consensus is not reached on the draft Referral Package and/or the CEAO's recommendations. This phase ends with the final Referral Package being referred to the Minister of Environment and Parks and the Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions for decision.

If participating Indigenous nations are providing information to inform the assessment, the scope and timing of this information would be identified below.

**Allotted Days/Dates:** up to 150 days.

**Public engagement:** minimum 30-day public comment period will be held during this stage on the EAO’s EPIC website on the draft assessment report and draft Certificate including proposed conditions and project description. During the public comment period, the EAO will hold an open house(s) to provide information on the EA process and the Project. The public comment period and open house(s) will be advertised by Canagold and coordinated by the EAO a minimum of seven days in advance of the public comment period commencing.

**Dispute resolution:** opportunity for participating Indigenous nations or the EAO to trigger dispute resolution if consensus is not reached on the Assessment Report, the draft Certificate, including proposed conditions and draft Project Description.

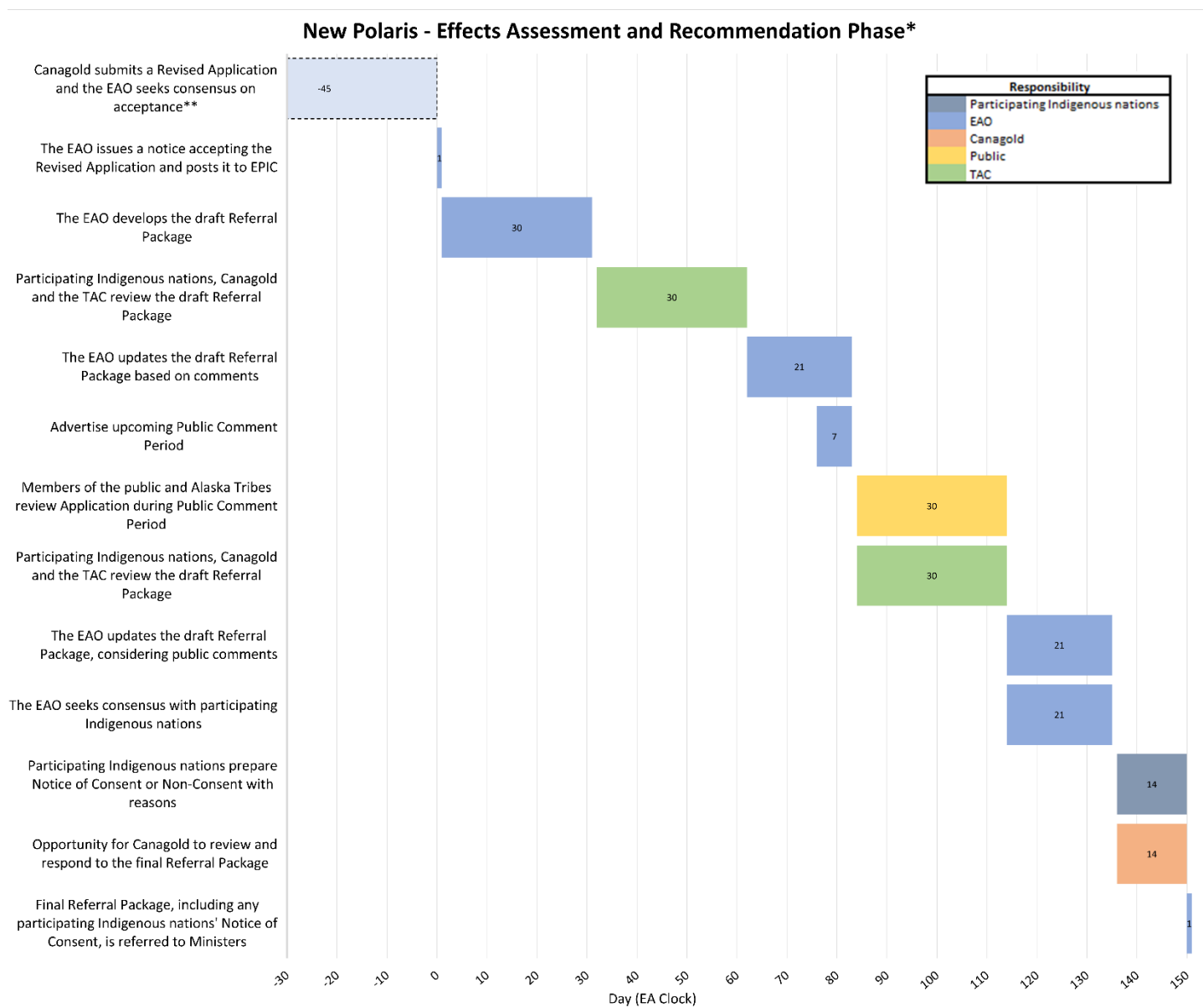
### *Deliverables*

The following deliverables will be developed during the Effects Assessment and Recommendation phase:

1. EAO Notice of Application Acceptance;
2. Any additional information provided by participating Indigenous nations to inform the assessment of effects to participating Indigenous nations and their rights;
3. Draft Referral Package including:
  - Draft Assessment Report; and
  - Draft EA Certificate including proposed conditions and project description;
2. Participating Indigenous nations’ notice of consent or lack of consent;
3. Draft CEAO Recommendations;
4. Final Referral Package including:
  - Final Assessment Report;
  - Draft EA Certificate including proposed conditions and project description;
  - Notifications of consent or lack of consent from participating Indigenous nations, if any; and
  - CEAO Recommendations.

### *Timeline*

Figure 2 shows how this phase is scheduled (for example when the EAO produces its first draft of the Assessment Report, the proponent, participating Indigenous nations, members of the TAC and Alaska Tribes, if appropriate, will be engaged by the EAO, and so forth). The timelines in the Assessment Plan are further detailed in a Project Work Plan that is developed by the EAO through engagement with Canagold, participating Indigenous nations and members of the TAC. The timeline for the development of the EAO’s final Referral Package is up to 150 days following the acceptance of Canagold’s revised Application. This timeline is legislated under Section 29(2) of the Act. A minimum 30-day public comment period on the draft Referral Package will be held during this phase.



**Figure 2: Anticipated Schedule and Timelines during Effects Assessment and Recommendations**

### *Roles and Responsibilities*

Table 3 provides a list of potential and required roles and responsibilities of the EA participants during the Effects Assessment and Recommendations phases.

*Table 3: Roles and Responsibilities of EA Participants during the Effects Assessment and Recommendation Phases*

Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
Canagold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide responses to comments from the TAC, public, Alaska Tribes, and participating Indigenous nations as directed by the EAO.</li> <li>Review and provide feedback to the EAO and participating Indigenous nations on draft Referral Package.</li> <li>Respond to information requests if directed by the EAO.</li> <li>Participate in meetings with the TAC and participating Indigenous nations, including Indigenous community meetings upon their request.</li> </ul>

Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
EAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue notice of Application acceptance.</li> <li>• Develop draft Referral Package with participating Indigenous nations and members of the TAC. Consider relevant input from the public and Alaska Tribes.</li> <li>• Identify the need for independent advice, with advice from participating Indigenous nations and members of the TAC.</li> <li>• Seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations on the draft Referral Package.</li> <li>• Engage Canagold during development of the draft Referral Package.</li> <li>• Engage agencies when updating the Regulatory Coordination Plan with details with respect to how issues are or will be addressed through the EA and other regulatory requirements or government initiatives and drafting the Certificate to ensure the requirements align with future permitting processes and other regulatory requirements.</li> <li>• Post draft Assessment Report and draft Certificate including proposed conditions and project description for public review and comment and administer public comment period on EPIC.</li> <li>• Post comments and responses to EPIC.</li> <li>• Conduct engagement with the public and Alaska Tribes as appropriate.</li> <li>• Consult with participating Indigenous nations.</li> <li>• Facilitate issues resolution as required.</li> <li>• Coordinate responses to public comments in response document or by making changes to the draft Referral Package to address the comments received.</li> <li>• Order the proponent to provide further information pursuant to <a href="#">Section 19(2)(c)(i)(B)</a>.</li> <li>• Seek advice from the members of the TAC to respond to public comments, if required.</li> <li>• Seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations on the CEAO's recommendations regarding the matters identified in <a href="#">Section 29(2)(b)(i)</a> of the Act, and provide participating Indigenous nations with the draft Environmental Assessment Report and the draft EA Certificate, including proposed EA Certificate conditions and Project description (7.35).</li> <li>• Develop final referral package.</li> <li>• Provide notifications to Alaska Tribes, as set out in section 3.2 of this Assessment Plan.</li> </ul>
Participating Indigenous nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide identified additional information to inform the assessment of effects to participating Indigenous nations and their rights and interests.</li> <li>• Support the EAO in developing the draft Referral Package as it pertains to the interests of participating Indigenous nations.</li> <li>• Participate in the consensus seeking process leading to the draft Assessment Report and draft Certificate.</li> <li>• Work with the EAO in updating the Regulatory Coordination Plan with details with respect to how issues are or will be addressed through the EA and other regulatory requirements or government initiatives.</li> <li>• Seek consensus with the EAO on the draft Referral Package.</li> <li>• Facilitate consideration of draft Referral Package by participating Indigenous nation decision makers to inform their notification of consent or lack of consent.</li> <li>• Provide notice, pursuant to <a href="#">Section 29(2)(c)</a> of the Act, of participating Indigenous nations' consent or lack of consent to the issuance of a Certificate, with reasons, during the public comment period.</li> <li>• Participate in consensus-seeking with the EAO regarding the CEAO's recommendations regarding the matters identified in <a href="#">Section 29(2)(b)(i)</a> of the Act.</li> <li>• Participate in TAC meetings and calls when possible.</li> <li>• Engage with and report back to community.</li> </ul>
Alaska Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide identified additional information to the EAO to inform the assessment of effects to Alaska Tribes, if requested and within the timelines established by the EAO.</li> <li>• Review and provide input on documents provided by the EAO within the timeline established by the EAO, if requested.</li> <li>• Participate in meetings and calls with the EAO and Canagold, if requested.</li> <li>• Engage with and report back to the community, if desired.</li> </ul>
Local bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise the EAO and participating Indigenous nations on effects of the project on the community and areas of interest to local governments.</li> <li>• Review and provide input on the draft Referral Package to ensure local issues and concerns raised by local governments are accurately reflected.</li> <li>• Participate in TAC meetings and calls.</li> </ul>

Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
TAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice as directed by the EAO to inform the assessment.</li> <li>• Review, provide feedback and advise the EAO on the effects assessment in the draft Assessment Report and draft Certificate.</li> <li>• Agencies collaborate with the EAO during the updating of the Regulatory Coordination Plan to provide details with respect to how issues will be addressed through other regulatory requirements or government initiatives and drafting of the Certificate to help ensure it aligns with future permitting and regulatory processes.</li> <li>• Participate in TAC meetings and calls.</li> </ul>
Public and Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide comments to the EAO during the public comment period.</li> <li>• Participate in public engagement activities of the EAO.</li> </ul>

## 5.1. Principles to Guide Relationship and Work with TRTFN

This section details how the EAO will work with TRTFN to conduct the EA and identify and assess the effects of the project to TRTFN and its rights to facilitate the path to consent.

Table 4: Guidelines and Principles that will guide TRTFN and the EAO's relationship and work together during the EA

TRTFN Item	Definition	Approach in the EA
<b>Taku River Tlingit Values</b>	A series of values or beliefs held by the Taku River Tlingit. For the full list, see section 5.1.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EAO will consider these values during the Effects Assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Taku River Tlingit Sustainability Requirements</b>	The set of conditions developed by TRTFN that, taken together, the TRTFN will use to assess the Project's contribution to the long-term sustainability of Taku River Tlingit Territory and the ability for future generations of TRTFN Citizens to meaningfully exercise Taku River Tlingit Title and Rights, these are listed in full in section 5.1.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EAO will consider these during the Effects Assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Precautionary Principle</b>	<p>Principle 15 set out in the 1992 Rio Declaration that states "where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."</p> <p>Applied in environmental decision-making the principle requires the four following components to be enacted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Where there is any significant uncertainty about the harm that could arise from an action, then the action should not be taken;</li> <li>b. The burden of proof of 'no harm' rests with the proponent;</li> <li>c. An expansive examination of alternatives to the proposed activity should be undertaken; and</li> <li>d. The level of participation in the decision-making by those parties potentially affected must be enhanced;</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EAO acknowledges TRTFN's interest in using this a principle to inform their decision making as a participating Indigenous nation during consensus seeking and during notice of consent/lack of consent within the EA.</li> </ul>
<b>Principles for Guiding Parties Work on the EA</b>	<p>The Parties work under this agreement would be guided by the following principles developed by TRTFN.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recognition and Implementation of Taku River Tlingit Title and Rights.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EAO, the Proponent and TRTFN will consider these principles throughout the EA process.</li> </ul>

TRTFN Item	Definition	Approach in the EA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Respect for and Implementation of TRTFN Decision-Making.</li> <li>d. Sustainability and Balance.</li> <li>e. Informed Decision-Making.</li> <li>f. Predictability, accountability, transparency and administrative fairness.</li> <li>g. Effective coordination.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment Policies</b>	<p>Policies outlined by TRTFN that aim to guide TRTFN's participation in the EA process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The use of land for any commercial or industrial activity must take place consistent with the protective mandate stipulated by the TRTFN Constitution;</li> <li>b. Any significant predicted adverse effects from commercial or industrial activity must be mitigated and managed to the extent practicably achievable, and to the extent acceptable to TRTFN Government, to be considered for approval;</li> <li>c. Any evaluation of potential impacts (positive or negative) must incorporate the best evidence from scientific knowledge and Taku River Tlingit Knowledge, with decisions made in accordance with the Precautionary Principle where environmental, social, or cultural risk is a factor; and</li> <li>d. Any approved projects must be advanced on the basis of demonstrated economic viability, best environmental management practices, robust scientific support for the environmental assessment, and consistent with Taku River Tlingit Knowledge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These policies will guide TRTFN's participation in the EA process.</li> <li>• The EAO will consider these policies during Application Review and when seeking consensus on Project effects.</li> </ul>
<b>TRTFN Consent</b>	<p>The path TRTFN will take to reach decision on consent or lack of consent for the EA Decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EAO will provide TRTFN with the draft EA Assessment Report, draft EA Certificate and proposed conditions.</li> <li>• TRTFN will write a recommendation to accompany the referral package for decision by resolution of the TRTFN Joint Clans Meeting.</li> <li>• The Resolution will direct the preparation of TRTFN's Notice of Decision to provide or withhold consent, with accompanying reasons, and terms and conditions that would need to be applied to the draft EA Certificate for TRTFN to consent.</li> <li>• TRTFN will provide the TRTFN Notice of Decision to the CEO and Canagold.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRTFN Lands Manager will provide materials and information to the TRTFN Joint Clans Meeting to inform TRTFN's decision on whether or not to consent to the Project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EA Assessment Report, Draft EA Certificate and conditions, and project description;</li> <li>○ A written recommendation by the TRTFN Lands Manager on behalf of the TRTFN Lands Department explaining the reasons for supporting or rejecting the Project;</li> <li>○ Any unresolved inconsistencies that remain between western knowledge and Taku River Tlingit Knowledge; and,</li> <li>○ any unresolved inconsistencies between conditions contained in the draft EA Certificate and any additional conditions considered necessary by TRTFN for which there was no consensus reached following any Dispute Resolution.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• TRTFN will, by resolution of the TRTFN Joint Clans Meeting:</li> </ul>

TRTFN Item	Definition	Approach in the EA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister will take TRTFN's consent or non-consent into consideration when making a decision under Section 29(4) of the Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide whether to provide TRTFN's free, prior and informed consent to the Project proceeding; and</li> <li>Direct that the TRTFN Notice of Decision be prepared that includes TRTFN's decision on whether to consent to the Project proceeding, the reasons why TRTFN is consenting or not consenting, and any terms and conditions that must be attached to the EA Certificate for TRTFN to consent to the Project proceeding.</li> <li>TRTFN will provide the TRTFN Notice of Decision to the CEAO and Canagold prior to the end of the public comment period during Effects Assessment (as described in Section 29.2(c) of the Act).</li> <li>The EAO will prepare the final Environmental Assessment Report and Sustainability Recommendation, taking into account the TRTFN Notice of Decision.</li> <li>Following receipt of the TRTFN Notice of Decision, and pursuant to the timeline for the effects assessment phase agreed-to by the Parties, the CEAO will provide the following materials to the Ministers to inform their decision on whether to issue an EA Certificate for the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Material referenced in Section 29(4) of the Act;</li> <li>TRTFN Notice of Decision</li> <li>Any unresolved inconsistencies that remain between the Assessment Report and TRTFN.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Province of British Columbia will provide notice of the Minister's decision (Subsection 29(4)) to TRTFN and Canagold.</li> <li>TRTFN Notice of decision will be posted to EPIC with confidential information redacted.</li> <li>Ministers' decision will be posted to EPIC.</li> </ul>
<b>Mining Policy</b>	The Mining Policy was developed by TRTFN to outline TRTFN's expectations for parties interested in extracting mineral resources from TRTFN's territory and to address TRTFN's participation in decisions regarding mining-related activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TRTFN will apply this policy to its Assessment of the Application.</li> <li>The EAO will work collaboratively with TRTFN to consider this policy during Application Review, Effects Assessment, and when seeking consensus with TRTFN.</li> </ul>
<b>TRTFN Indigenous Knowledge</b>	The cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions of TRTFN, and knowledge of traditional TRTFN lifeways and systems, whether embodied in tangible or intangible form, and from ancient and contemporary time, transmitted from generation to generation that TRTFN makes available for consideration in the Provincial Assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canagold will develop the Application, which will include TRTFN's Indigenous Knowledge as provided by TRTFN, in collaboration with TRTFN.</li> <li>TRTFN will advise on the process by which Taku River Tlingit Knowledge is to be collected, synthesized and applied in the Application assessment, including the respective roles and responsibilities of each of the Parties and Canagold.</li> <li>The EAO and TRTFN will seek consensus on whether the baseline information and/or contingencies set out in the Application or revised Application meet the confidences of TRTFN and the Province, and if the Application accurately captures the current knowledge for the Project and study areas.</li> <li>The EAO will consider TRTFN Indigenous Knowledge during the Effects Assessment.</li> </ul>



### 5.1.1. TRTFN Values

The natural world is the basis of Tlingit culture, including thought, language and spiritual fulfillment and livelihood – all of which flow from, and are inextricably tied to, the land. Having an intact and fully functioning environment with a rich, enduring endowment of animals and their habitats is fundamental to the survival and flourishing of Tlingit culture. Salmon are key actors driving biological processes in the territory, and their continued well-being is essential to maintaining the quality of the natural world. Human behaviour on the land is rooted in the understanding of the reciprocal interdependence of all life forms and so decisions about, and actions upon, the land must be constrained so as not to impair, disrupt or otherwise destroy any part of the land and water of the territory. Decisions about what happens on the land are to be made collectively by all TRT members through the exercise of their Aboriginal rights and responsibilities as set out in the TRT Constitution.

These values are protected, developed and enhanced by a set of sustainability requirements:

- Ecological processes, structures and life forms in the territory remain intact and fully functioning, protected from any diminishment of environmental quality caused by human behaviour;
- The current well-being of resident animal and plant communities remains unimpaired by any human activity;
- Access to the land by TRT members is unconstrained and enhanced as may be determined by TRTFN;
- Specific high biodiversity values such as rare or sensitive ecosystems, species at risk or of regional concern, etc., are maintained;
- Communities are supportive, secure, and healthy, where people enjoy unencumbered access to their traditional lands and resources;
- Any industrial development in the territory generates lasting economic benefits for the TRT community;
- Any industrial development in the territory generates no lingering or permanent legacy of impaired environmental or cultural quality; and
- Any mining or mineral exploration activity undertaken in the territory must be done consistent with TRT mining policy.

As part of the assessment process and its Notice of Decision on consent or lack of consent, TRTFN will conduct a “sustainability test” of the project, as a simple, qualitative means of explicitly testing how well the application promotes the sustainability requirements of the TRTFN. The sustainability test will include testing against various environmental, economic, social and cultural indicators.

TRTFN will submit its sustainability test of the project to the EAO and Canagold within two months of the acceptance of the Revised Application. The sustainability test is separate from the sustainability assessment and recommendation required through Section 16.0 of the Application Information Requirements.

## 5.2. Relationship and Work with TTC

The EAO and TTC will work collaboratively to identify principles and values that will guide their relationship and their work together in the conduct of the EA and the assessment of the project effects upon TTC.

## 6.0 DECISION

This phase begins when a referral package is submitted to ministers under [Section 29\(1\)](#) of the Act and ends when Ministers decide whether to issue or refuse an EA Certificate and publishes reasons for their decision.

When deciding on whether a project should receive an EA Certificate the Ministers must consider the Application, materials in the referral package, the sustainability and reconciliation purposes of the EAO, and other prescribed matters, if any. The Ministers may consider any other matters that they consider relevant to the public interest.

If the recommendation of the CEOA respecting the project's consistency with the promotion of sustainability is contrary to the consent or lack of consent indicated by participating Indigenous nations, the Ministers must, before deciding, offer to meet with the First Nation that provided the notice. If the offer is accepted within 3 days of being made, the Ministers will provide notice to Canagold that a meeting is taking place. Ministers will attend the meeting to attempt to achieve consensus with participating Indigenous nations on the decision. If new information is provided by the participating Indigenous nation, the EAO must share this information with the proponent.

Whatever the decision, reasons for the decision must be published. The Ministers must provide reasons for why a decision is made that is contrary to the consent or lack of consent indicated by a participating Indigenous nation.

**Allotted Days:** 30 days

**Dispute resolution:** In some circumstances, it is possible that dispute resolution between a participating Indigenous nation and the CEOA could be appropriate following referral to the Ministers but prior to the Ministers' decision under [Section 29\(4\)](#) of the Act, to address matters not captured in the final Assessment Report or EA Certificate. This facilitation could be in addition to or in conjunction with a meeting between the participating Indigenous nation and the Ministers pursuant to [Section 29\(6\)](#) of the Act.

#### *Deliverables*

1. The EAO will issue a decision whether to issue an EA Certificate and the reasons for decision.

#### *Roles and Responsibilities*

Table 5 contains a list of potential and required roles and responsibilities of the EA participants during the decision phase.

Table 5: Roles and Responsibilities of EA Participants During the Decision Phase

Participant	Roles and Responsibilities
Canagold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to be heard, if the reasons for notification of consent or lack of consent are contrary to the recommendations and introduces new information that has the potential to materially impact the decision, or similarly with respect to information provided at a meeting held pursuant to <a href="#">Section 29(6)</a> of the Act.</li> </ul>
EAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief decision makers.</li> <li>• Support participating Indigenous nations in meeting with the Minister, if needed.</li> <li>• Provide notice to Canagold that a meeting with a participating Indigenous nation will be held pursuant to <a href="#">Section 29(6)</a> of the Act, as needed.</li> <li>• Provide any new information provided by a participating Indigenous nation that has the potential to materially impact the decision to Canagold.</li> <li>• Provide Canagold with an opportunity to respond if the reasons for notification of consent or lack of consent provided by participating Indigenous nations are contrary to the recommendation for decision and introduces new information that has the potential to materially impact the decision, or similarly with respect to information provided at a meeting between the Ministers and a participating Indigenous nation that is held pursuant to Section 29(6) of the Act.</li> <li>• Distribute and post Ministers' reasons for decision and final referral package to the EAO's EPIC website.</li> </ul>
Participating Indigenous nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake steps necessary to inform participating Indigenous nation decision makers.</li> <li>• If requested by a participating Indigenous nation, meet with Ministers (if notice of consent or lack of consent is contrary to the CEOA's recommendations respecting the project's consistency with the promotion of sustainability).</li> </ul>