

# Socio-Economic Impact Assessment **GUIDELINES**

## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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**Mackenzie Valley**  
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#### **Cover photos**

##### ***Front (L-R)***

Elder at community hearing in the Dehcho  
Community hearing in Fort Resolution, NWT  
Children at the 2006 Tlicho Annual Assembly in Wekweeti, NWT

##### ***Back (L-R)***

Fort Good Hope, NWT  
Snap Lake, NWT  
Dog musher (photo, Tessa Macintosh)  
William Koe, Charlie Snowshoe, and James Andre in Fort McPherson, NWT

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# Common Acronyms

The following is a list of acronyms used in the *Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines*:

- DAR Developer's Assessment Report
- EA environmental assessment
- EIA environmental impact assessment
- *EIA Guidelines* *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines*
- EIR environmental impact review
- ENR (GNWT department of) Environment and Natural Resources
- GDP gross domestic product
- GNWT Government of the Northwest Territories
- INAC Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- MVRMA *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*
- NEB National Energy Board
- NGO non-governmental organization
- NWT Northwest Territories
- REA Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision
- PWNHC Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
- SEIA Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
- *SEIA Guidelines* *Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines*
- TOR Terms of Reference

## Disclaimer:

These guidelines are not a legal authority and are not intended to provide legal advice or directions. This guideline provides information only, and should not be used as a substitute for the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) or regulations. In the event of a discrepancy, the MVRMA or a land-claim agreement prevail.

## Notes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. A vertical margin line is present on the left side, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be part of a notebook or binder, as evidenced by the dark binding visible along the left edge. There are no markings, text, or drawings on the page.





## Using the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines



# Using the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines

## 1.1 Review Board Guidelines

The *Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines* are the third set of guidelines the Review Board has produced to help clarify the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process in the Mackenzie Valley. The Review Board developed each set of guidelines in accordance with section 120 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The Review Board recommends that every organization involved in EIA become familiar with the expectations and processes described in the Review Board's series of guidelines—beginning with the *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines* (EIA Guidelines).

The *EIA Guidelines* are the parent document in the Review Board's guidelines series. The *EIA Guidelines* reflect the law, current thinking and good practices for EIA in the Mackenzie Valley. These guidelines describe the steps, requirements and Review Board expectations of the EIA process.

The *Guidelines for Incorporating Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Impact Assessment* (TK Guidelines) outline the Review Board's expectations and processes for incorporating traditional knowledge in the EIA process. The *TK Guidelines* are particularly important for developers planning to work with traditional knowledge holders in Mackenzie Valley communities. These guidelines also explain to Mackenzie Valley residents and communities how the EIA process can accommodate issues related to protecting the confidentiality of traditional knowledge.

These *Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines* (SEIA Guidelines) are a planning tool that outline the Review Board's expectations for assessing socio-economic and cultural impacts. The developer and parties to the EIA of a proposed development that may cause adverse socio-economic and cultural impacts should refer to the *SEIA Guidelines*. The developer and parties should also refer to the *SEIA Guidelines* to identify whether these potential impacts *need* to be assessed during the EIA process.

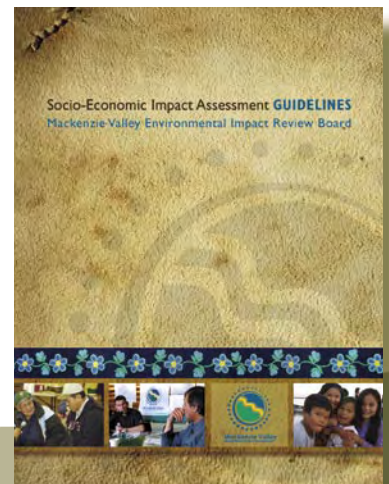
*Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines (EIA Guidelines)*



*Guidelines for Incorporating Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Impact Assessment (TK Guidelines)*



*Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines (SEIA Guidelines)*





## 1.2 Who Should Use These Guidelines?

**Developers** that are responsible for assessing and reporting the potential socio-economic and cultural impacts of proposed developments. The *SEIA Guidelines* explain how a developer can conduct SEIA, including the following:

- How to address SEIA issues when engaging communities before the EIA process begins
- What level of SEIA is required for the proposed development application

**Regulatory agencies and government departments** that are responsible for the following:

- Determining whether a developer's SEIA identifies potential impacts and the stated concerns of potentially affected Mackenzie Valley residents and communities
- Fulfilling their socio-economic mandates by participating in and contributing to the SEIA process

**Aboriginal groups, communities and other parties** that want to participate in the SEIA of a proposed development. These groups are valuable participants in SEIA. Developers should note that residents and users of an area potentially impacted may have useful expertise or knowledge regarding the potential socio-economic and cultural impacts of a proposed development.

**Communities** include: ► self-identified cultural groups ► municipalities such as hamlets, villages and towns ► interest groups and NGOs that the proposed development may impact.

## 1.3 Guideline Objectives

The Review Board wrote the *SEIA Guidelines* to help developers – and other parties – identify and propose mitigation for potential socio-economic and cultural impacts of proposed developments *early in the EIA process*.

These guidelines are a tool to help developers plan and develop projects that are sustainable – environmentally, economically and socially. Well-conducted SEIA is essential to the overall success of the EIA process and any subsequent development.

The *SEIA Guidelines* will help developers and other involved parties achieve the following:

- Identify the key concepts and goals of SEIA
- Understand how SEIA relates to the unique requirements of the MVRMA
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of every party involved in the three levels of the EIA process
- Understand the Review Board's expectations for conducting SEIA during the three levels of EIA
- Access tools, methods and other SEIA resources

# I.4 Layout of the SEIA Guidelines

## Section 1: Using The SEIA Guidelines

General background information about the *SEIA Guidelines* and how the *Guidelines* are linked to other Review Board publications.

## Section 2: Introduction to SEIA

Read this section if you are unfamiliar with SEIA and what SEIA assesses.

## Section 3: Conducting SEIA

The first part of this section is important particularly for developers, reviewers and the preliminary screeners of initial development applications. This section has a variety of tools that can help scope the required level of SEIA effort. The remainder of Section 3 focuses on how the other five steps of SEIA are conducted.

## Section 4: SEIA in Preliminary Screenings

This section describes how to include SEIA during the initial developer analysis and the preliminary screening of initial development applications.

Parties involved when the developer is conceptualizing the proposed development should consult this section and other guidance documents provided by preliminary screeners.

## Section 5: SEIA in Environmental Assessments

This section provides guidance on Review Board expectations, tools, methods and resources for conducting SEIA during environmental assessment (EA).

## Section 6: SEIA in Environmental Impact Reviews

This section highlights differences between EA and environmental impact review (EIR).

## Section 7: Conclusions and Future Amendments

## Appendices

