

Interim Policy Statement

Engagement and Consultation in Environmental Assessment and Impact Review

The Review Board has engagement and consultation responsibilities

As the organization responsible for environmental impact assessment (EIA) under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, the Review Board's responsibilities center on the protection of the environment (including social, economic, and cultural aspects), the wellbeing of communities and residents in the Mackenzie Valley, the well-being and way of life of Indigenous Peoples, and the concerns of Indigenous people and the public.

The Review Board takes these responsibilities very seriously and recognizes the value of meaningful engagement and consultation. Our EIA processes are open and inclusive, providing numerous opportunities for participation, as described in Review Board guidelines¹, Rules of Procedure, terms of reference and work plans. The Crown also relies on the EA process to support its consultation obligations, as described in letters sent to Indigenous governments and First Nations at the outset of an EA and following the Review Board's final report.

Current Policy and Guidance

The Review Board does not currently have an official consultation and engagement policy. Along with our existing guidance, the Review Board has, where applicable, been using the approaches and principles described in the [Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board \(MVLWB\) Engagement and Consultation Policy](#) and [Guidelines](#).

The Review Board is now adopting the MVLWB Engagement and Consultation Policy on an interim basis (including guiding principles, proponent engagement requirements, and Board consultation) while we work to develop our own engagement and consultation policy, and associated guidance materials.

The EIA context

When engaging and consulting during EIA processes and when giving guidance to proponents, the Review Board will apply elements of the MVLWB policy in ways that are appropriate and meaningful for the people involved, the issues at hand, and the purpose and principles of Part 5 of the MVRMA. We will provide specific instructions during individual EIA proceedings, as necessary.

¹ [Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines](#) (see, for example, section 2), [Guidelines for Incorporating Traditional Knowledge](#), and [Socio-economic Impact Assessment Guidelines](#).