



6

Participation



*A booklet series about Environmental Impact
Assessment in the Mackenzie Valley*

THE REVIEW BOARD

OUR VISION

Making wise environmental impact assessment decisions that balance the diverse values, interests, and knowledge of all residents of the Mackenzie Valley, while ensuring the protection of the environment for present and future generations.

Environmental assessment is a set of steps for decision making. It involves predicting whether a proposed project is likely to cause environmental impacts that matter (significant impacts), and identifying ways to avoid or reduce them.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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www.reviewboard.ca



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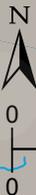
Nunavut

Gwich'in

Sahtu

Wek'èezhìi

Yukon



British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

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This book highlights the why, when, where and how of participating in the environmental assessment process.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- The Review Board listens and wants to hear your viewpoints.
- Your efforts can have a big result on the course of an environmental assessment.
- Make your voice heard on proposed major developments – Participate in environmental assessments.

This booklet is intended for information purposes only. It has been prepared in an effort to highlight key elements of the environmental assessment process. If any information conflicts with the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act or any of the Board's Guidelines, Reference Bulletins, or Policies, the latter would take precedence.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE

PROJECT PLANNING
FIRST, A DEVELOPER
PLANS A PROJECT

1

2

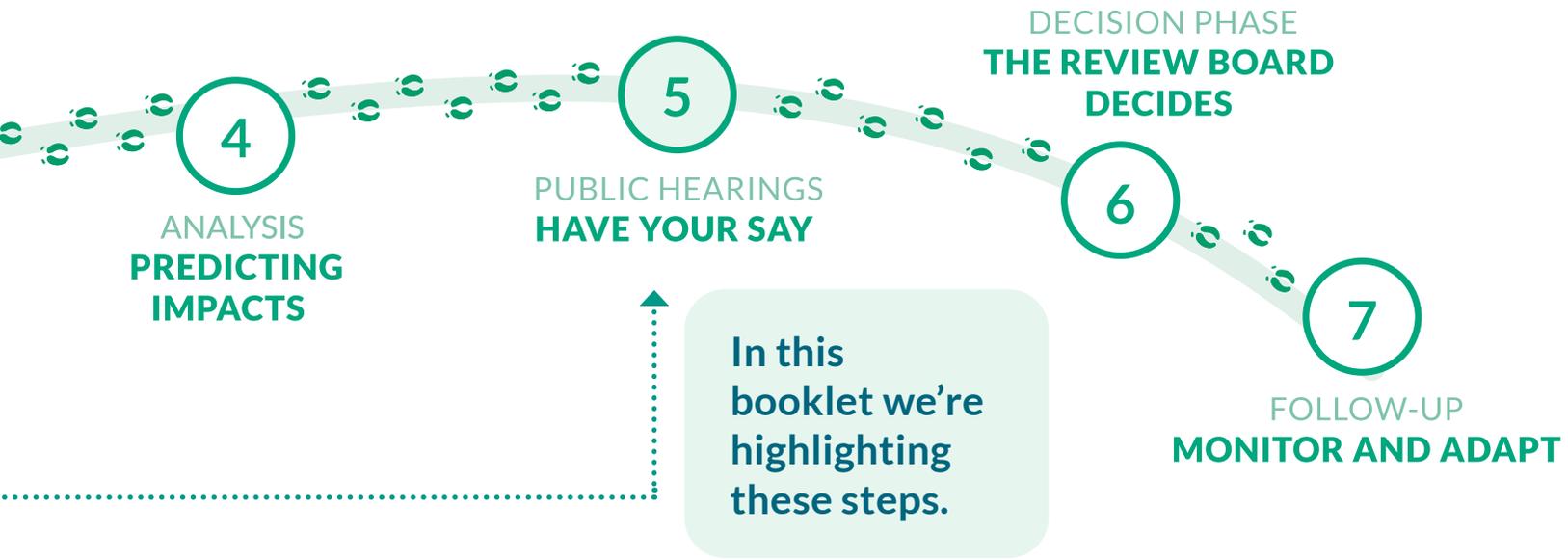
PRELIMINARY SCREENING
OR DIRECT REFERRAL
TO ASSESSMENT
IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT NEEDED?



3

SCOPING
WHAT ARE THE MOST
IMPORTANT ISSUES?





MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS. TAKE PART.

When the Review Board does an environmental assessment, there are many ways to share what you think. Public comments have made a real difference to the Review Board's decisions.

If a project (like a mine or a road) has been proposed and you have concerns or thoughts about the possible impacts, you should take these opportunities to tell the Review Board your views.

This booklet describes how.



TELL SCREENERS IF YOU THINK A PROPOSED PROJECT MIGHT CAUSE IMPORTANT IMPACTS OR CONCERNS

Screeners (usually Land and Water Boards) can send a proposed project to the Review Board for an environmental assessment (a more thorough review of a project's impacts), a decision partly based on what they hear from the public. **If you have concerns** about a proposed project or the impacts it *might* cause on people or the Land, **make sure the screeners know what you think**.

Two easy ways to do this are:

- **Send an email** to the Land and Water Board doing the screening. Describe your concerns and the impacts you think might happen because of the proposed project. If you think the project should have an environmental assessment, tell the screener.
- **Talk to your local representative** organizations (such as your Land and Environment Committee, Renewable Resource Council, Band Council or Indigenous Government) and ask them to raise your concerns or views in writing to the screeners.

Preliminary Screening Websites

When a proposed project in your region is being screened, it will often be advertised on the public registry of your regional Land and Water Board, and on the Online Review System that the Mackenzie Valley boards share. The Review Board also has a webpage for all preliminary screenings of proposed projects. For help finding this information, please contact the Review Board, or visit the website link(s) below:

Mackenzie Valley **Land and Water Boards' Public Registry** (select the region in the "Region" drop-down menu, or via the map):

<https://mvlwb.com/registry>

Online Review System of the Mackenzie Valley Boards (select the regional Board for the proposed project, as appropriate):

<https://new.onlinereviewssystem.ca/>

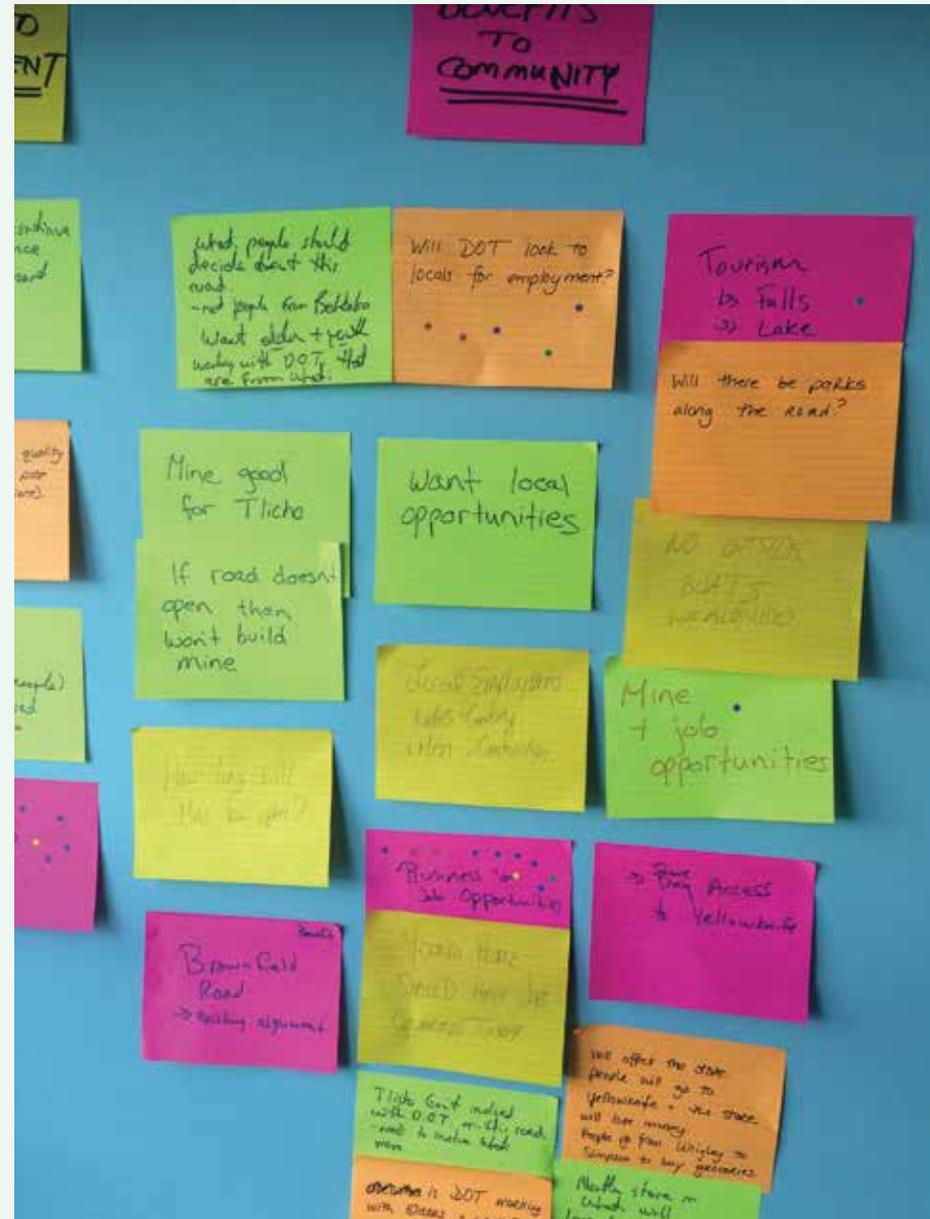
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board **Preliminary Screening Registry**:

<https://reviewboard.ca/registry/preliminary-screenings>



TELL THE REVIEW BOARD WHAT IMPACTS IT SHOULD LOOK AT

Near the start of an environmental assessment, the Review Board holds public workshops in communities to help decide what are the most important issues to study. These workshops are called **scoping sessions**, and they **make a big difference to the environmental assessment process**. If you come to these sessions, you will find out more about the proposed project, and **you can tell Review Board staff what issues the Board should focus on**. The rest of the environmental assessment focusses partly on what the Review Board hears in these scoping sessions.



HELP PREDICT IMPACTS AT THE BOARD'S COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Around the middle of the environmental assessment, the Review Board may hold **community sessions**. At these sessions, community members, including **land and resource users**, discuss the **possible impacts** from the proposed project on culture and the land. This could include impacts on harvesters, harvested species like caribou, furbearers or fish, and heritage or sacred sites. All of these impacts could affect the well-being of community members. Sometimes Traditional Knowledge holders take part in these sessions, which help parties and the Board predict the impacts of the proposed project. The reports from these sessions go on the public record and are part of the evidence the Review Board weighs when making its decision.



IN HEARINGS, YOU CAN TELL BOARD MEMBERS YOUR VIEWS DIRECTLY

Near the end of the environmental assessment, the **Review Board holds hearings in communities** near the project. During these hearings, the Review Board makes time for community members **to tell the Board members how the proposed project would affect the land and people**. Community members can tell Board members, person-to-person, what they think would happen if the project went ahead, and if they have concerns. Interpretation is provided, and the Board writes all comments and puts them on the public record as official evidence. The **Board members listen carefully** and think about what they have heard from you when making their decisions about the project and its impacts. This is a powerful way to share your views.



Make your voice heard at any time during an active EA!

During an environmental assessment, often the best times to provide face-to-face input into the process are at the phases of EA indicated in this booklet – screening, scoping, community sessions and community hearings. These are ideal times to tell your views to the Board. If you prefer not to give your opinions in-person at these opportunities, **you can also provide input in other ways**. In fact, **as long as the EA record is open** (at any phase of review), you can provide your views to Board members and staff.

How can you do this? In addition to **talking face-to-face**, you can tell us what you think:

- in writing, with the Board's **Online** Review System (www.reviewboard.ca);
- by **video or audio recording**, submitted to the Review Board; or
- by **writing to the Board** directly via a written letter or email.



IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS, YOUR VOICE IS LOUDER THAN YOU THINK

Taking part can lead to big results. The Review Board has made these opportunities available to you so that you can influence:

- which projects go to environmental assessments;
- what issues the assessments focus on;
- how impacts are predicted and understood;
- what the Board decides about the likely impacts;
- whether changes in the project are needed to protect the Land; and
- if the project should go ahead.



When the Board reports its decision, it often describes what it heard from community members, and how that affected the Board's decision.

Sometimes, in its final reports, the Board quotes community members' actual words so that others may hear and understand them.

If you want it, ***there is a role for you in the Review Board's environmental assessments.***



USE THESE BOOKLETS TO HELP YOU THROUGH THE EA PROCESS



Overview: How environmental assessment fits into the co-management system.



Project Planning: What should happen before an environmental impact assessment?



Preliminary Screening: The co-management system decides if an environmental assessment is needed.



Environmental Assessment: What steps happen during an environmental assessment by the Review Board?



Follow-up: What happens after an environmental assessment is completed?



Participation: How to make your voice heard in environmental assessment.

BOOKLET

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Mackenzie Valley Review Board

1
Overview of Environmental Impact Assessment

A booklet series about Environmental Impact Assessment in the Mackenzie Valley.

BOOKLET

2

Mackenzie Valley Review Board

2
Project Planning

A booklet series about Environmental Impact Assessment in the Mackenzie Valley.

BOOKLET

3

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Preliminary Screening

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Environmental Assessment

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Follow-up

A booklet series about Environmental Impact Assessment in the Mackenzie Valley.

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