

# Slave Geological Province Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment: Workshop Agenda

June 22 - 23, 2022 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm MDT  
Tree of Peace Centre (5011 51 St), Yellowknife & Virtually via Zoom (see link below)

## Introduction and Context

On June 7, 2021, the Tłıchǫ Government sent a letter to the Minister of Northern Affairs requesting the initiation of a regional study of the Slave Geological Province (SGP) area of the NWT, under Part 5.2 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). In response to the request by the Tłıchǫ Government, the Minister of Northern Affairs has directed officials to seek the perspectives of potentially affected parties to help inform next steps in pursuing a Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (RSEA) in the SGP. To support this preliminary work, a workshop will be hosted on June 22 – 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Tree of Peace Center (5011 51 St., Yellowknife), with opportunities for virtual participation. Workshop participants will include representatives of interested Indigenous governments and organizations, regional co-management boards, federal and territorial governments, and industry.

The purpose of this document is to share the workshop agenda, objectives, and topics for discussion during the workshop. The workshop will focus on learning more about RSEAs (Day 1) and discussing options for a potential RSEA in the SGP (Day 2). The workshop will be an opportunity for participants to share their ideas freely, and we encourage an informal and candid dialogue. Recommendations and discussions from the workshop will help to inform recommendations to the Minister of Northern Affairs on initiating a regional study under the MVRMA.

## Pre-Read information

As you prepare for the workshop, we invite you to review the following linked materials, which include the Tłıchǫ Government press release letter, and materials to provide guidance on the federal perspective on RSEAs.

1. [Tłıchǫ Proposes a Strategic Assessment of Development | Tlıcho](#)
2. <https://ccme.ca/en/res/rseaincanadaprinciplesandguidance1428-secure.pdf>
3. <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/regional-strategic-assessments/regional-assessment-impact-assessment-act.html>

Relevant workshop materials will be posted to the MVEIRB website, both ahead of and following the workshop.

## Workshop Objectives

The workshop is intended to provide participants with an open and collaborative opportunity to discuss an RSEA of the SGP. Day 1 is focused on learning more about RSEAs, including associated terminology and the difference between RSEA and other environmental assessment tools. Day 2 is focused on discussing options for a potential RSEA in the SGP. Workshop objectives include:

1. Learn about RSEA as a tool including key terminology, challenges, and opportunities of its application in the SGP.
2. Discuss what an RSEA could look like in the SGP i.e., geography and context:
  - Discuss the potential geographical and contextual scope for the Slave Geological Province (SGP)
  - Consolidate participants' concepts around potential key objectives and preferred outcomes
  - Discuss the process for further refining the scale and scope of a RSEA
3. Establish how partners could work together on a potential RSEA
  - Develop guiding principles and roles and responsibilities
  - Establish timelines and milestone for the RSEA

## Next Steps Following the Workshop:

- Participants to submit their views on the potential RSEA of the SGP in writing to Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) before July 15, 2022
- CIRNAC to use insights shared during the workshop and views of participants to inform recommendation to the Minister of Northern Affairs on whether or not to proceed with RSEA of the SGP
- If the RSEA was to proceed, first steps would include building on the workshop discussions to establish a list of clear and concise questions for the RSEA to address and set the scope of the RSEA.

## Zoom Registration Link

- [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvduCprD0sGdGu4iZHnt\\_Ba7QgoUezs2Nr](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvduCprD0sGdGu4iZHnt_Ba7QgoUezs2Nr)

## Workshop Agenda

### Day 1: June 22, 2022

Timing	Agenda Item
9:00 - 9:15	<b>Meeting Opening</b>
9:15 – 9:30	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round table introductions</li> <li>• Warm up exercise / ice breaker (Mentimeter)</li> <li>• Housekeeping</li> </ul>
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Agenda and Workshop Objectives</b>
9:45 – 10:45	<b>What is an RSEA? – Dr. Bram Noble (virtual)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of terminologies</li> <li>• What can or should an RSEA address?</li> <li>• Who or what processes are to be informed by RSEA?</li> <li>• What are the enablers and inhibitors of a successful RSEA?</li> <li>• What types of questions do we need to be asking in an RSEA?</li> </ul>
10:45 - 11:00	<b>Health Break</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>What works and does not work with RSEAs – Dr. Jill Blakley (virtual)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of RSEA examples and lessons learned.</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:45	<b>Lunch</b>
12:45 – 1:30	<b>Case Study: Nunavut Impact Review Board – Baffin Bay and Davis Strait Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Heather Rasmussen and Rosanne D’Orazio</b>
1:30 – 2:15	<b>Overview of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada’s Regional Assessment Program – Dr. Stephen Bonnell (virtual)</b>
2:15 – 2:30	<b>Health Break</b>
2:30 – 3:15	<b>RSEA and Sustainability – Dr. Bob Gibson (virtual)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability in regional context</li> <li>• Guidance and pitfalls based on experience (ring of fire example)</li> </ul>
3:15 – 3:45	<b>Day 1 Participant Reflections</b>
3:45 – 4:00	<b>Wrap up for the Day / Next Steps</b>

**Day 2: June 23, 2022**

Timing	Agenda Item
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Welcome Back</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round table introductions</li> <li>• Recap of day 1</li> <li>• Agenda and objectives for Day 2</li> <li>• Opening remarks, background and drivers for an RSEA in the Slave Geological Province</li> </ul>
9:30 – 10:45	<b>RSEA Objectives and Purpose – <i>Why are we considering doing this</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakout groups and plenary discussion on RSEA objectives and outcomes</li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:00	<b>Health Break</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>RSEA Outputs – <i>If we proceed, how do we ensure this is not just another study</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakout groups and plenary discussion on vision for an RSEA in the SGP</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:45	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>
12:45 – 2:15	<b>RSEA Scope and Scale – <i>How are we going to achieve the outcomes and visions for an RSEA?</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakout groups and plenary discussion on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Achieving the outcomes and vision for an RSEA (including key activities, actions needed to get there)</li> <li>○ RSEA scale, scope, governance, engagement, Indigenous knowledge and timing</li> <li>○ Benefits and challenges</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:15 – 3:00	<b>How are we going to work together on an RSEA?</b> Plenary Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing guiding principles – How could we potentially work together?</li> <li>• Roles and Responsibilities – How would you like your organization to participate in an RSEA, and how do you see your organization contributing to the process?</li> </ul>
3:00 – 3:20	<b>Next Steps and Closing Reflections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeline and short-term path forward</li> <li>• Closing Round table – “key takeaways” from the workshop</li> </ul>
3:20 – 3:30	<b>Meeting Closing</b>

## Presenter Bios

**Dr. Jill Blakley**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

I hold a Ph.D. in Geography (University of Saskatchewan) specializing in environmental impact assessment. I've been a faculty member of the Department of Geography and Planning since 2009, and am an Associate of the School of Environment and Sustainability.

My research program centers on cumulative effects assessment and strategic environmental assessment, particularly as applied to regional-scale natural resource development programs. I currently serve as a member of the Parks Canada Strategic Environmental Assessment Continuous Improvement Program committee and am lead editor of the forthcoming volume *Handbook of Cumulative Impact Assessment*, part of an international series of Handbooks on best practice in impact assessment. I am co-lead editor of a second forthcoming volume (with Aimee Craft, University of Ottawa) *In Our Backyard: The Keeyask Experience*, which profiles the legacy of cumulative impacts on people and lands affected by more than 60 years of hydro-electric development in northern Manitoba.



My most significant work includes a series of papers and technical reports that helped crystalize regional strategic environmental assessment (RSEA) in concept and practice in Canada and internationally. These papers informed national policy guidance endorsed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment, and Alberta Environment's Land Use Framework for the northeast oil sands development area and province-wide. This work also subsequently informed the development of Transport Canada's National Framework for assessing the cumulative effects of marine shipping; the call for RSEA in Ontario's Ring of Fire region; the call for better CEA of Ontario's Deep Geologic Repository project; and more. I am currently synthesizing lessons from more than 60 cases of regional assessment across Canada and internationally to foster cumulative effects assessment best practices.

My academic and professional experience spans the areas of environmental assessment, regional and urban planning, and natural resources management. Over the past two decades, I've provided expertise to the International Association for Impact Assessment; the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment; the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (now IAAC); Transport Canada; Parks Canada; the Wildlife Conservation Society (Canada); Alberta Environment; the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission; Manitoba Hydro; BC Hydro; the Public Interest Law Centre of Manitoba; the Consumers Association of Canada (Manitoba chapter); Pape Salter Teillet LLP Barristers and Solicitors; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; the Canadian International Development Agency; the Canadian Institute of Planners, and the City of Saskatoon.

**Dr. Bram Noble**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

I was born in the coastal mining town of Baie Verte, north central Newfoundland, Canada. I completed my Ph.D. in Geography, specializing in environmental assessment, at Memorial University of Newfoundland. I joined the University of Saskatchewan in 2002. I am currently Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning, and Vice Dean Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work in the College of Arts & Science.



My research is in the field of environmental assessment, addressing issues and applications ranging from cumulative effects assessment and land use to resource policy and planning for mineral and energy development projects. I am co-director of the Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security (CASES) partnership, funded by a SSHRC Partnership Grant and project partners. CASES is an international research and knowledge mobilization initiative involving 15 northern and Indigenous communities and public and private sector project partners from Canada, Alaska, Sweden, and Norway. The overarching goal of this work is to co-create and broker the knowledge, understanding, and capacity to design, implement and manage renewable energy systems that support and enhance social and economic values in northern and Indigenous communities (<https://renewableenergy.usask.ca/Projects/CASES.php>).

I am also actively engaged in the professional practice of environmental assessment. I have been a consultant or advisor to several First Nations in relation to cumulative effects assessment and regulatory proceedings. I have also been a consultant to industry and various provincial, territorial, national and international agencies including Environment and Climate Change Canada, Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Board, Government of the Northwest Territories, Nalcor Energy, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, National Energy Board, Office of Auditor General of Canada Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In 2018-19 I was appointed to the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel on Integrated Natural Resource Management.

I currently serve as Editor-in-Chief for Environmental Management and on the editorial boards of Environmental Impact Assessment Review and Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal.



**Heather Rasmussem**  
**Nunavut Impact Review Board**

Heather is the Senior Policy Advisor at the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) and currently resides in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. Heather joined the NIRB in 2013 as a Technical Advisor and transitioned to a Policy Advisor role in 2016. In addition to policy work, Heather was the NIRB File Lead on the Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait and is also responsible for coordinating NIRB staff contributions to Nunavut Marine Council initiatives.



**Rosanne D'Orazio, BSc., MSc.**  
**Qikiqtani Inuit Association**

Ms. D'Orazio is the Assistant Executive Director of Operations & Benefits for the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. She has been working and living in Iqaluit, Nunavut for the past 12 years with her husband and two kids. She has experience with environmental assessments at the strategic and project level and extensive experience with community engagement. She is currently also part of the QIA team negotiating an Inuit Impact and Benefit agreement for two marine protected areas in the Qikiqtani region.



Rosanne has a Masters degree in Environmental Assessment from McGill University and lead QIA's involvement in the Strategic Environmental Assessment for Oil and gas in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. In her previous role at QIA as the Director of the Lands & Resources Department she worked with staff to develop a methodology for using IQ (traditional knowledge) in decision making, which was critical to QIA negotiations for the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA).

**Dr. Steve Bonnell**  
**Impact Assessment Agency of Canada**

Dr. Steve Bonnell is Manager, Strategic and Regional Assessments with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. Based in St. John's NL, he is responsible for the Agency's national program of strategic and regional assessments. This includes the recently completed Regional Assessment for oil and gas exploratory drilling offshore Eastern Newfoundland, as well as the on-going Regional Assessments in the Ring of Fire area of Ontario, the St. Lawrence River of Quebec, and for offshore wind development in Atlantic Canada. Dr. Bonnell has over 20 years experience working in impact assessment in various roles in industry and government. He holds a PhD in Strategic Environmental Assessment from the University of Dundee, Scotland as well as Masters and Bachelors Degrees in Geography from Memorial University where he is also an Adjunct Professor. Dr. Bonnell has published and presented widely on impact assessment principles and practice.



**Dr. Bob Gibson**  
University of Waterloo

Bob is engaged in several projects centred on applied sustainability. Many of these involve [sustainability assessment](#) as applied in particular projects and strategic undertakings in Canada and elsewhere. One current project is on the development and application of sustainability-based [next generation environmental assessment](#) law and policy for Canada at the federal and provincial/territorial levels. That includes involvement in the current review of federal assessment processes; work on integrating serious attention to [climate change mitigation in assessments](#); and collaborations with Indigenous communities and other interests on decision making surrounding mining and other extractive industries activities in Indigenous traditional territories. Past studies include ones focused on integrating [ecological stewardship, sustainable livelihoods and associated learning](#) in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Model Forests/Forest Communities across Canada, and longstanding work on linking [environmental assessment and planning](#).



Since 1984, Bob has been co-editor or editor or (now) editorial board chair of [Alternatives Journal](#), for which he also writes a column called, "[What's the Big Idea?](#)".

He teaches courses on sustainability in a complex world, advanced environmental and sustainability assessment, and the historical development and present implications of sustainability-related ideas and practices, including at the community scale.