

November 22, 2022

Release of the Guideline for Preliminary Screeners

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is pleased to announce the release of [Guideline for Preliminary Screeners](#) (the Guideline).

The Guideline will help preliminary screeners do their work

Preliminary screening is a vital yet challenging part of the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley. Preliminary screening is an initial examination of a proposed project's potential to cause adverse impacts on the environment, and its potential to cause public concern. The Guideline provides assistance to preliminary screeners on how to conduct effective preliminary screenings by:

- describing the purpose of preliminary screenings,
- discussing key considerations in preliminary screenings,
- providing instructions for conducting the “might test”, and
- providing recommendations on how to write *Reasons for Decision* on a screening.

The Guideline is the result of collaborative engagement

The Review Board initiated work on the Guideline in response to a series of workshops on preliminary screening in 2016 and 2019. The Guideline was prepared collaboratively and includes feedback from the Review Board's First Nation government and organization partners, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Canada. The Guideline also includes information from existing guidance material, outcomes of the 2019 workshop, working group discussions, and opportunities for public review.

Formal public review of the draft Guideline took place using the [Online Review System Dec 2021-Feb 2022](#). This was followed by consultation with First Nations and the Tlicho Government in accordance with Section 120 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Key recommendations from engagement and consultation included clarity on:

- use of both draft and approved legally binding Land Use Plans
- use of early engagement methods already developed by Indigenous communities
- screening changes to developments that have gone through environmental assessment
- the 10-day pause period

This Guideline reflects over two decades of preliminary screening experience in the Mackenzie Valley. The Guideline supersedes the draft Guideline issued for consultation in 2021.

The Review Board hopes that it will serve to guide preliminary screeners in conducting their screenings; the important process upon which much environmental impact assessment in the Mackenzie Valley ultimately rests. The Review Board is particularly grateful to the preliminary screening organizations that used their many years of first-hand experience to contribute to and improve these Guidelines.

The Review Board is focused on continual improvement

Review Board staff are available to meet with individuals and organizations to go over the material in the Guideline. If you have questions about the content or use of the Guidelines, or suggestions for future improvement, please reach out to Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director at mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca or 867-766-7055.