

## Review Board's Commitments

To support the objectives of this guideline, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board commits to:

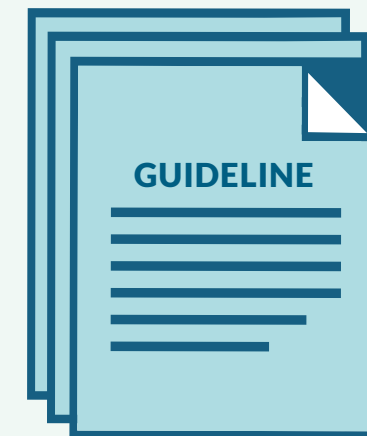
- meeting with developers to support their work following this draft Guideline
- conducting scoping processes that focus the assessment and consider the work that went into preparing EA initiation materials
- communicating in a clear and transparent manner

For more information please visit the Review Board's website at <https://www.reviewboard.ca> OR contact Catherine Fairbairn at +1(867)766-7054 or via email [cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca](mailto:cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca)



## DRAFT GUIDELINE for Major Projects to go **Directly to EA**

The draft Guideline describes an optional, direct pathway to environmental assessment (EA) for major projects and the information developers must provide for the Review Board to consider ordering a project directly to EA.



- Promotes early, ongoing, respectful engagement and collaboration between developers, affected communities, and Indigenous Governments and Organizations
- Gets major projects into the EA process earlier and reduces regulatory and administrative burden on developers and preliminary screeners
- Ensures that the Review Board gets the information it needs to order a project directly to EA



### What is a major project?

A Major project is a new mine, pipeline, highway, hydro facility, oil and gas production facility or other project proposal that would normally undergo an environmental assessment.



### What role does early engagement and collaboration have in all of this?

Early engagement and collaboration is the best way to realize all of the potential benefits and opportunities of this guideline and the pathway it describes. Without earlier and better work with communities and governments, it will not be possible to meet the requirements of this guideline.



# Changes made in this draft of the Guideline

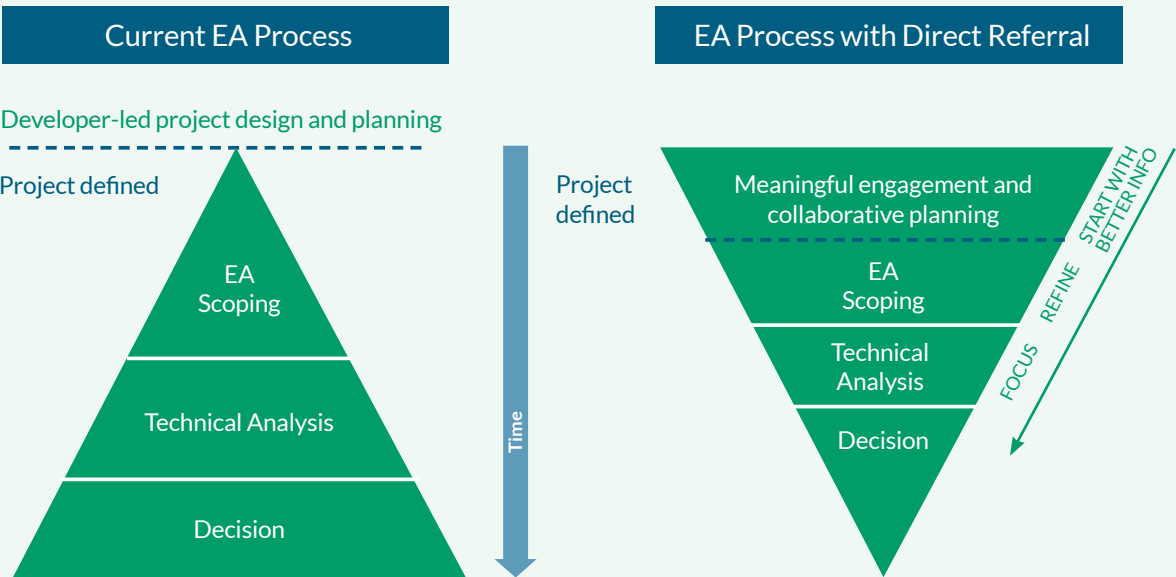
Based on feedback on the previous draft, this draft has been revised to:


- increase focus on objectives, rather than prescriptive details
- increase focus on early engagement and collaborative project planning
- provide a clearer description of the pathway and the associated information requirements

## How could this guideline improve EA process?

EA process improvements from following this guideline:

- Improved understanding of the project, environment, and potential interactions at the start of the assessment
- More focused scoping, prioritizing the most important or unresolved issues earlier
- Early engagement and collaboration support more and earlier involvement in project design, as well as identifying appropriate mitigation and assessment methods





**How much information does a developer have to provide for the Review Board to order an EA?**

Developers should work with Review Board staff to help understand the information requirements of this guideline for their project. If a developer does not provide the right information, the Review Board may choose not to order an EA until that information is available.

# What does this guideline mean for participants in the EA process?



### Benefits for developers:

- clear expectations of information needed to start an EA can lead to more timely, efficient and effective EA processes
- strengthened relationships with parties
- minimize impacts and design a good project with good mitigations through collaborative project planning (reducing the costs of project design changes late in the process)
- work with parties to identify priority issues and identify acceptable assessment methods earlier through increased collaboration
- avoid duplication of regulatory processes before and after EAs



### Benefits for Indigenous Governments and communities:

- improved early understanding of the project and potential impacts
- voice concerns earlier
- meaningful participation in collaborative project design, setting priorities for the EA and identifying mitigation
- strategic planning on level of involvement in the EA and use of resources



### Benefits for government parties:

- better understanding of project and potential impacts
- prioritize major EA issues and separate issues that can be dealt with during permitting
- earlier work with developer on acceptable assessment methods
- more efficient process in which to review information, ask questions, and identify remaining concerns



### Benefits for the Review Board:

- some issues may be resolved before an EA starts
- better information coming in to EA
- more collaboration between all parties

