
New Participant Funding Program for Environmental Impact Assessments in the North

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade, has recently announced a dedicated Northern Participant Funding Program to help Indigenous Peoples and Northerners participate more effectively in impact assessment processes for major projects. The related press release can be found [here](#).

The Review Board fully supports this program

The Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Review Board) welcomes this new program and fully supports the initiative. We believe it can help facilitate more meaningful and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Northerners in our environmental assessments and impact reviews. This will:

- help the Review Board make **better informed decisions**,
- improve **public confidence** in those decisions,
- support our statutory **consultation** obligations and the **Crown's duty to consult** and accommodate, and
- contribute to **reconciliation, relationship-building, and the effectiveness of the resource management systems in the Mackenzie Valley**.

Meaningful participation is important

The Review Board believes that ensuring northern communities and organizations can participate effectively in Board proceedings is critical to informed decision making and helps fulfil the intent of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Parties to our processes have often said that the lack of adequate resources, such as human and technical capacity and the ability to travel to Board events, has limited their meaningful participation.

- The Review Board has **consistently identified affected parties' need for capacity to participate** meaningfully in environmental impact assessment.
- This **priority has been reinforced by the NWT Board Forum and the Pan-Territorial Regulatory Board Forum** through its reports and correspondence.

Our role in implementation of the Participant Funding Program

The Review Board looks forward to working with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and parties to our process in this important initiative, to effectively support the implementation and administration of the program.

For further information, please contact:

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