



Pan-Territorial Board Forum

SUMMARY REPORT

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Cc: Manik Duggar, Senior Policy Advisor
Canadian Northern Economic Development
Agency

5019 52 St., Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T5

manik.duggar@cannor.gc.ca

PREPARED BY

Stratos Inc. an ERM Group Company

1404-1 Nicholas Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

www.stratos-sts.com

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Background

Since 2014, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency’s (CanNor) Northern Project Management Office (NPMO) has hosted the annual Pan-Territorial Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Board Forum (the Forum). This Forum brings together representatives of each of the impact assessment (IA) Boards and licensing across the Yukon, Northwest Territories (NWT), and Nunavut with the aim of facilitating discussion and initiatives on matters of common interest. Participating Boards include:

Region	Yukon	Mackenzie Valley	Inuvialuit Settlement Region	Nunavut
Assessment Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Impact Steering Committee (EISC) Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Licensing Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yukon Water Board (YWB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Wek’èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) *Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) *Gwich’in Land and Water Board (GLWB) *Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nunavut Water Board (NWB)

*The LWBs conduct preliminary screenings, which are part of the environmental impact assessment process under Part 5 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The **objectives** of the annual Forum are to:

- Discuss and understand the key challenges with regulatory and impact assessment Boards operating in the three territories;
- Share best practices and success stories with respect to common operational challenges;
- Provide an opportunity for building relationships between the Boards that will allow for ongoing support and information sharing; and,
- Identify possible opportunities to collaborate on operational policies, processes and guidelines and develop more consistent approaches, as appropriate.

Introduction

The 2022 Forum was hosted in November 2022 at the Baker Centre, in Yellowknife, NWT. Over thirty participants from nine Boards participated (see Appendix A for a list of participants). The Forum’s Steering Committee – in collaboration with the meeting facilitators – guided the development of the Forum’s final agenda (see Appendix B for the meeting agenda).

The following design considerations informed the planning for the 2022 Forum;

- Reengage in an in-person format for the first time since the 2019 PTBF,
- Focus on mutual learning and exploration of specific issues, followed by advancing collaborative efforts on specific topics,
- Focus on topics that are relevant to both impact assessment and licensing Boards, and
- Keep advanced preparation efforts light, recognizing the busy schedules of Boards.

The Forum included plenary discussions and small breakout groups to enable sharing across Boards.

The Forum began with Lisa Dyer, Director General for the Northern Project Management Office of CanNor, welcoming participants to the Forum. She emphasized the value of the Forum and expressed an interest in learning more from Forum participants on opportunities to grow and support this initiative over the coming years.

This report summarizes the rich discussions that were held during the Forum, capturing the main themes, questions, and opportunities for follow-up.



The following symbol is used throughout the report to highlight potential future subjects for further discussion, as flagged by participants.



The following symbol is used throughout the report to highlight synergies between Boards, for future discussion and follow-up.

Summary of Discussions

Land Acknowledgements: An Evolving Landscape

The Forum was opened in good way by the Yellowknives Dene First Nations drummers. This opening prompted a reflection by participants on the evolving practice of land acknowledgement across the North. Key themes from the discussion included:

- **It may not always be appropriate to do a land acknowledgement.** For example, in regions where it is not common practice to do so (e.g., Nunavut) or in regions with overlapping or unresolved land claims as that may be perceived as the Board acknowledging territorial claims of one group over another.
- **Boards are evolving to use cultural openings** as more culturally meaningful practices than land acknowledgements. For example, the NIRB is considering opening hearings with throat singing or Inuit drumming rather than an opening prayer or land acknowledgment.
- **Some Boards are working collaboratively with communities to determine the type of opening used** to ensure that these come from a meaningful place and are self-determined by the communities themselves. This process supports reconciliation and relationship building efforts between Boards and communities. Relationship building also includes sharing information with communities, to make the Boards' presence and work more meaningful and accessible.

The key takeaway from the discussion was that land acknowledgments and openings are very context driven, and that Boards should take the lead from the communities (where they work) to do land acknowledgements and openings in a meaningful way.

Taking Stock: Changing Context for Northern Boards

Since the last Forum, there have been significant changes in context for northern assessment and licensing Boards (e.g., renegotiated or impending new agreements, experiences of the direct impacts of climate change, launch of Canada’s critical minerals strategy, etc.). The purpose of this agenda item was to take stock of the changing context for northern Boards. Table 1 captures the outputs of the discussions.

Table 1: Changing Context for Northern Boards

Factor	Considerations for a Changing Context for Northern Boards
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing scrutiny on the recommendations that emerge from regulatory processes due to potentially opposing views from governments (i.e., Indigenous, Territorial, Federal) on project decision-making
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing demand for low carbon economy transition (including through the federal government’s Critical Minerals Strategy) will result in increased development pressure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New projects will need to be assessed and licensed at the same time as a number of remediation projects, adding to Board workloads • Evolving practices in security and bonding requirements for new projects due to increased attention by governments and communities has resulted in increased pressure on licensing Boards to set adequate securities
Socio-cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous interests in regulatory processes are driving Boards to increase attention on socio-economic and cultural factors; however, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These factors are difficult to quantify, assess and to develop effective mitigation measures through regulatory processes, and ○ It is challenging for Boards to effectively consider these for remediation / closure projects due to the existing impacts from these projects • Increasing need to reflect Indigenous Knowledge / Traditional Knowledge (IK / TK) in regulatory processes, which increases the complexity of regulatory processes and results in greater effort for Boards
Technological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing expectations post-COVID for virtual engagement, which increases the complexity of engagement activities and increases Board workloads • Increasing expectations for remote work conditions which makes it challenging to recruit and retain local staff • Increasing access to drone and satellite imagery for site assessments has improved understanding of environmental conditions and supported Board workloads for assessment and ongoing monitoring processes
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely future implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and associated considerations for free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) have shifted the landscape and increased requirements for Indigenous engagement, Consultation, and Accommodation in regulatory processes¹ • Ongoing land claim negotiations with Indigenous governments, including with groups with ‘transboundary’ (i.e., NWT, Yukon and/or Nunavut) claims has increased expectations for engagement with a broader set of Indigenous communities

¹ Cross-cutting theme across political, economic, socio-cultural, and legal factors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blueberry River decision has increased attention to the consideration of cumulative effects on Indigenous rights in regulatory and environmental assessment processes • The Vavilov decision has increased the need for robust reasoning in Board decisions and recommendations to decision-makers • Evolving regulatory landscape (e.g., NWB Water Management Strategy, ongoing negotiations and preparation for devolution in Nunavut) has shifted or may be shifting requirements for regulatory Boards, resulting in increased workloads • Government of Canada (GOC) reliance on the assessment process to satisfy in part the GOC's s.35 obligations (Duty to Consult) often adds additional expectations to a Board's process.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing and worsening impacts of climate change are increasing expectations for robust consideration of climate change scenarios and impacts in assessment and regulatory processes • Ongoing, worsening, and evolving impact of climate change are making it increasingly difficult for Boards to effectively monitor and predict the effects of climate change, resulting in increased workloads • Adaptation needed to existing Board guidelines to reflect the realities of climate change and support Boards in conducting more accurate assessments

Changes in the context for northern Boards is leading to greater effort and increased workloads. Although Boards continue to play the same role, there are additional expectations due to the quantity (i.e., more projects or different approaches to projects) as well as quality (due to greater expectations for engagement, reflection of IK/TK, etc.) of work.

Board Updates

As in previous years, Boards provided an update on activities they are undertaking. Each Board delivered a short update covering pre-determined themes established through the pre-forum survey:

- Engagement and collaboration initiatives,
- Updates to website or public registries,
- Approaches to address amended human resources legislation (specifically, amendments to the Canada Labour Code and the Employment Equity Act), and
- New key initiatives.



Board presentations are included in the Forum briefing package. We noted the following synergies across presentations:

- **Boards have the opportunity to learn from one another, and potentially coordinate, on the development of updated guidelines or policies:** Many of the Boards are currently making updates to their guidelines and policies (e.g., the LWBs of the Mackenzie Valley are updating their Engagement and Consultation Policy, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is updating their Traditional Knowledge Guidelines in 2023, NIRB is updating its Impact Statement Guidelines and Rules of Procedures, EISC is updating internal operations guidelines, etc.). Given the similarities between jurisdictions and legislation, there may be an opportunity for Boards to coordinate and share resources to inform processes going forward, especially as Boards develop guidelines or policies for new issues (e.g., climate change).
- **Boards are actively working with Indigenous communities to increase understanding of their processes and ensure their processes are meaningful:** This includes Boards spending more time in the communities and developing education and outreach tools. There was interest among some Boards in developing regional liaison roles in communities and exploring this idea between Boards.
- **Boards are advancing human resources practices:**
 - **Practices to fulfil the intent of Board creation:** Boards are actively working toward a staff compliment that matches the population they serve and are adjusting their practices to achieve greater representation of Indigenous persons (e.g., adopting hiring policies, creating flexible work arrangements to accommodate cultural practices)
 - **Practices to support Board member and staff recruitment:** Boards are seeking opportunities to build local and Indigenous technical capacity and participation in processes to support future employment opportunities. Boards are looking at ways to support employment within the communities they serve over the long-term, for example, looking at tools like offering scholarships, internships, mentorship, or developing relationships with post-secondary programs, etc.
 - **Practices for Board and staff wellness:** Boards are increasingly recognizing the need for Board and staff wellness and are acting on this through retreats and other activities. Wellness initiatives are also seen as a tool to enhance recruitment and retention of staff.

- **Opportunities for shared services across Boards:** Boards are discussing opportunities for shared services and/or secondments between Boards to support collective northern Board capacity, including community relations personnel.

Phased Developments

Project amendments and licence renewals for phased developments were discussed during the 2021 Forum and identified as a topic of interest for further discussion. The purpose of this agenda item was to further explore how phased developments are experienced by Boards, to both understand the challenges and practices that Boards are using with these types of projects.

The facilitators tabled a *working definition* of phased developments, which was updated by Forum participants to the following **definition of phased developments**:

A project which is undertaken in separate or distinct phases over time, in which each phase increases the scope of the project from what was initially assessed. The initial phases of the project may or may not have significant impacts, but the increased scope of the project may have significant impacts.

Participants generally acknowledged that most major projects are phased developments due to the mineral development lifecycle (e.g., exploration, development, operations, remediation) and the way that projects are financed by investors, but they are difficult to manage and are currently eroding trust in the regulatory and assessment regime . Key themes from this discussion include:

- **Proponents are unable to forecast the entire lifecycle of a project due to various factors including the mineral development lifecycle and project financing:** Phased development projects are a result of financing and reporting requirements, with proponents not able to forecast the entire lifecycle of the project due to securities legislation or limited ability to predict the scope of the entire project. Initial phases may not be financially feasible without long-term phased opportunities and the possibility of increased project scope.
- **Phased developments are eroding trust between rightsholders, proponents, other stakeholders and Boards:** Phased developments have resulted in rightsholders and community members feeling that the project is not the one they initially agreed to. Projects are changing scope at such a fast pace, that it may be hard for communities to keep up. A lack of a long-term, clear vision from the proponent erodes trust between the proponents and rightsholder and other stakeholders. Boards then struggle to address these broader issues of trust through the regulatory process.
- **Phased developments result in a greater workload for Boards:** Boards are experiencing increasing workloads due to shifting requirements for community involvement and engagement, climate change, and other factors. Phased developments further compound that workload through constant project proposals and shifting monitoring requirements.
- **Project scope may change for a variety of reasons including based on what is learned through adaptive management:** Although most phased developments are the result of increased scope of project activities for enhanced development, some may be the result of emergency amendments, or mitigation measures through adaptive management (e.g., changing migration patterns for caribou). It can be challenging for Boards and communities to fully understand the scope of these types of phased developments over their lifecycles as they aren't subject to the same regulatory processes.

- **Phased developments create challenges for monitoring and mitigation:** As the project scope changes over time, its effects may not be fully understood. Monitoring for the initial project may not be conclusive, so further changes to the project scope makes it even more challenging to monitor and interpret results. As a result, Boards are finding it challenging to implement effective monitoring and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures in these cases.

The key takeaway from this discussion was that many projects are phased developments, and they are challenging to navigate due to:

- The differences between the mineral development lifecycle and the regulatory lifecycle, which are not well understood by communities or participants in the regulatory process, resulting in eroded trust between parties.
- Rapid changes in the environment (e.g., climate change) that communities see firsthand, which can make it difficult to implement and assess monitoring and mitigation for projects against established baseline conditions.

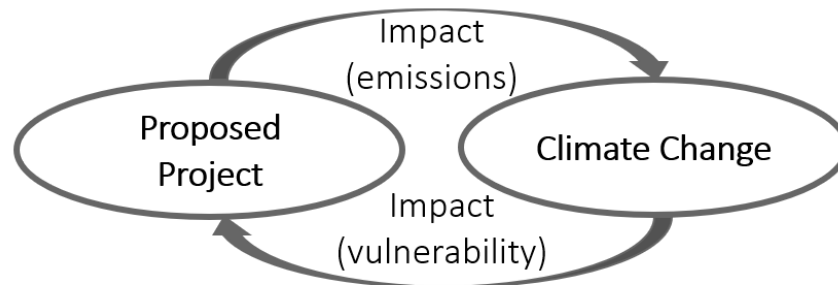
Participants largely agreed that the primary tools for addressing the challenges identified above include ongoing engagement, building trust through transparency, progressive remediation approaches, applying regional tools to understand broader impacts, and applying practices to support employee retention for institutional memory. Key themes from the discussion of tools includes:

- **Enhancing transparency between proponents, rightsholders, and other stakeholders and Boards through ongoing engagement to build trust:** Boards can enhance understanding of the purpose of regulatory processes, including how they navigate phased developments, changing the narrative for proponents from impact assessment as a ‘hoop to jump through’ into a tool for planning and community support. Boards can regularly engage with communities and/or encourage proponents to establish ongoing relationships to enhance trust.
- **Encouraging proponents to submit projects with reasonable future scenarios and potential impacts:** Boards can inform proponents of the potential challenges of taking a phased development approach and encouraging them to submit projects which include reasonably foreseeable future scenarios and associated impacts to design mitigations beyond the first phase of development.
- **Encouraging proponents to take a progressive closure and reclamation approach:** For projects with reasonably foreseen phased developments, Boards can encourage proponents to mitigate project impacts through progressive closure and reclamation practices.
- **Applying approaches to assess different project components over time, space, and similar potential impacts:** Applying regional tools for projects in similar geographies or with potentially similar impacts to Valued Environmental and Socio-economic Components (VESECs) to gain a broader picture of the cumulative impacts of the projects and enhance trust with communities within the region.
- **Implementing practices for employee retention for depth, capacity, and institutional memory:** As projects change over time, new Board and/or staff members may not have the full understanding of the scope of the project. As a result, Boards need to focus on retention to support institutional memory.

Climate Change Considerations

As governments develop climate change policies, the approaches for how climate change is handled in assessment and licensing processes are evolving. The purpose of this agenda item was to support mutual learning on how climate change considerations are currently being factored into Board processes and to explore what else is needed to do this successfully. The facilitators tabled a figure which outlined initial considerations for climate change in regulatory processes (see Figure 1 below)

Figure 1: Climate Change Considerations in Regulatory Processes



Participants elaborated on this figure by sharing that new projects are driven by climate change mitigation needs (which includes the use of new or innovative technologies), that Boards need better tools and guidelines to factor climate change into their processes, that climate change is having direct impacts on Indigenous communities, and that monitoring and adaptive management is an increasingly important tool to address climate change considerations in their processes. These themes are elaborated further in the bullets below.

- **Proposed projects may be driven by climate change mitigation needs:** New projects may be proposed as tools to address the ongoing climate crisis (e.g., critical minerals for batteries, solar energy, etc.). Although these projects may have local impacts, their alignment to climate change policies and strategies (e.g., Net Zero by 2050, Paris Agreement) and global benefits may be more heavily weighted by decision-makers. In these cases, Boards may need to navigate the trade-offs between local impacts and global benefits.
- **New projects or new phased developments are starting to include latest energy technologies as climate change mitigation measures:** New projects or phased developments may include the use of innovative or untested energy technology as climate change mitigation measures. Examples include the use of small modular nuclear reactors, solar projects, or wind turbines to move beyond the use of diesel in northern environments. The use of these technologies in projects is challenging for Boards as the impacts of these technologies are not well understood in northern environments, they may not be well understood or trusted by communities and Traditional Knowledge may not support these types of activities.
- **Boards need better tools and guidelines to support understanding of the effects of climate change on proposed or existing projects:** Boards need additional guidelines and tools such as Government of Canada interventions in their processes and modelling to support the quantification of how projects are

contributing to climate change, as well as the climate change risks to existing and future projects. Boards and proponents are relying on outdated climate change predictions, leading to project planning based on unrealistic expectations (e.g., planning to rely on permafrost as a waste rock cover). Updated climate change predictions are needed so that proponents and the Boards can make informed project plans and decisions

- **The impacts of climate change are having direct impacts on Indigenous people’s understanding and relationship to the environment:** The impacts of climate change are shifting the way Indigenous communities are interacting with the environment. IK/TK is constantly changing and evolving, but may not be aligned with the pace of change required for addressing climate change. Ongoing discussions with communities are needed to better understand the existing and future impacts of climate change on IK/TK
- **Monitoring and adaptive management is an increasingly important tool in the context of climate change:** Given the increasing rate of change, monitoring and adaptive management is gaining importance as an ongoing tool to adjust project operations as climate change effects are experienced. This increased focus requires additional resourcing for Boards and participation by intervenors such as the Government of Canada to support ongoing efforts and understanding of shifting environmental conditions. Climate change impacts may also require longer periods of monitoring than previously used (for example, longer-term post-closure monitoring)

The key takeaway from the discussion was that the pace of change due to shifting climate conditions is difficult to predict and will demand a new way of considering effects in regulatory processes. Monitoring and adaptive management will be an important tool for considering shifting conditions.



Boards identified climate change as an ongoing topic for discussion given how quickly this topic is evolving. Potential future discussions included the regulation of new technologies/approaches to mitigating climate change impacts on projects or regulation of contributions to climate change (e.g., GHG emissions regulations), opportunities for collaboration on climate change guidance, and opportunities to collaborate or learn from one another on approaches to long-term monitoring and adaptive management.

Roles of Various Parties for Considering Climate Change

As the consideration of climate change in northern regulatory processes is evolving, various actors may need to support these processes in different capacities.

Table 2 below captures the results of the discussion.

Table 2: Roles of Various Parties for Considering Climate Change

Actors	Roles for considering climate change
Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating guidelines and policies to provide consistent approach for proponents to consider climate change impacts and risks, to support effective decision-making • Developing / updating guidelines and policies to provide consistent approach for proponents to consider IK/TK, to support effective decision-making • Conducting community outreach and public education to enable communities to share inputs into Board guidance on considering climate change to better understand processes, enhance trust, and reflect community inputs into decision-making • Requiring proponents to consider increased temporal and spatial scopes for project impacts and benefits, which acknowledge the impacts of climate change, to inform decision-making • Seeking more input from federal experts on climate change to inform decision-making • Advocating for Indigenous employment in government climate change roles to support Board processes and increase reflection of IK/TK in climate change considerations • Developing a northern Boards joint statement on the priority of climate change. This statement could be used to bring attention to the importance and complexity of this issue for northern Boards and enhance support by the federal government for Board activities related to climate change
Proponents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrating through regulatory submissions how they are considering and implementing government climate change guidelines to effectively meet regulatory requirements • Increasing commitments to climate change, including clear identification of impacts, alternatives, and areas of uncertainty through rigorous consideration of multiple climate change models to enhance Boards' and communities' confidence in predictions • Demonstrating awareness and consideration for local and IK/TK and northern issues to enhance Boards' and communities' confidence and trust • Participation in collaborative processes and discussions with Indigenous communities to understand climate change impacts of their project or activities and to work to mitigate these • Sharing lessons learned on considerations of climate change in other projects or from industry groups with Boards and other actors to enhance knowledge of different approaches • Demonstrating ongoing monitoring and adaptive management efforts as environmental conditions change
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing investment in baseline data, research, guidance on best available models, and development of a strategic framework to better support Boards in making informed decision on climate change risks or projects' contributions to climate change • Sharing expertise and intervening in processes to inform Board decision-making • Engaging with communities to share governments' role and expectations on the type of information to be included in regulatory processes • Enhancing the availability of participant funding to support communities' participation in regulatory processes • Committing to adaptation initiatives², including supporting community adaptation initiatives to enable communities to better respond to impacts of climate change

² Following the PTBF, the Government of Canada released *Canada's National Adaptation Strategy*: [Canada's National Adaptation Strategy: Building Resilient Communities and a Strong Economy - Canada.ca](https://www2013.international.gc.ca/adaptation/strategy/strategy-eng.aspx)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcing monitoring, emissions standards, and development certificate provisions to support adaptive management • Developing a long-term vision of the energy landscape to support informed decision-making by Boards to align with this long-term vision
Other reviewers and parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with communities to collect local and IK/TK to support regulatory processes and understanding of climate change impacts • Sharing expertise, views, and values to inform Board decision-making • Increasing public education on Board processes to support public participation in these processes

The key takeaway from the discussion was that the pace of change due to shifting climate conditions requires proponents, governments, and other reviewers and parties to engage more actively in these processes and bring considerations of climate change forward.

Cumulative Effects

In June 2021, the Supreme Court of British Columbia held that the cumulative effects of multiple projects may form the basis of a treaty rights infringement. This decision, known as *Yahey vs. British Columbia*, was the first of its kind in Canada linking cumulative effects to treaty infringement and has sparked discussions about its potential implications. The purpose of this agenda item was to collectively reflect on the implications of this decision and what it means for advancing Board practices as it relates to cumulative effects.

Participants generally acknowledged that impacts on people are the ultimate cumulative effect as there is no separation between biophysical impacts and socio-economic impacts or cumulative effects. Participants emphasized that the consideration of cumulative effects occurs primarily during the impact assessment stage, rather than the permitting or licensing phase of the regulatory process. Key themes from this discussion include:

- **Boards are evolving their practices to effectively consider the pathways of cumulative effects on people and communities:** Boards recognize that people are directly impacted by the cumulative effects of developments, and that concerns over these effects may be greater than concerns explicit to a certain project. This approach acknowledges that people's perceptions, associated practices and/or changes to their behaviours can be significant and may be deemed an impact from the project. For example, one Board shared a story of community members not feeling comfortable using a local water source to brew tea as they associated it with a change in taste due to mining activities in the region. Although western science supported that there were no changes to water quality, people's behaviours had changed. This type of behaviour change may be considered a significant impact from cumulative effects in this region.
- **Indigenous communities are self-determining their preferred processes for the assessment, management, and monitoring of cumulative effects:** Indigenous communities are self-determining how they want to collect, store, and use data on cumulative effects, including cumulative socio-economic effects. Indigenous communities are actively working to establish frameworks for the effective assessment, management, and monitoring of cumulative effects that are informed by their relationships with the land and cultural practices. These frameworks may include regional and strategic approaches to assessment, management, and monitoring or other frameworks.
- **A people centered approach to cumulative effects requires ongoing monitoring, engagement and understanding of how people's perceptions are shifting over time:** Given the changes to the environment from climate change and other activities, the level of acceptability of cumulative effects of developments may change over time. Effects may be compounded by expanded development, the ongoing impacts of climate change, or effects to species such as caribou. Communities may determine that the associated impacts on their wellbeing from these activities are no longer acceptable.
- **Boards are working with communities to enhance understanding and establish community-based indicators for cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring:** Boards are taking different approaches to better understand the cumulative effects of developments on communities. This includes shifting approaches from simply asking communities to identify cumulative effects (which can be abstract) to asking questions such as 'are you noticing any changes on the landscape'? They are also working with communities to establish culturally informed criteria for the management and monitoring of

cumulative effects. Indicators are informed by IK/TK and seek to minimize the impacts of developments on traditional uses of the land and cultural activities. An example was shared of proponents compensating community members for sharing information from their cultural activities (e.g., fishing and hunting) to support monitoring activities on the health of these species.

The key theme from the discussion is that impacts on people are the ultimate cumulative effect. This recognition requires adapted approaches to assessment processes, which are informed by meaningful relationships, understanding of how people interact with their environment, and ongoing engagement practices.

Regional and Strategic Assessment Approaches

Regional and strategic assessment approaches are an established tool in Canada and internationally to better understand cumulative effects at a regional scale, consider broader scale development than a project-by-project approach, and assess potential policies, plans, and programs. They include a range of approaches such as cumulative effects studies, class or sector-based assessments, and strategic future assessments. The purpose of this agenda item was to explore the potential of this tool to assess, manage, and monitor cumulative effects of projects.

Slave Geological Province: Request for a Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment

In June 2021, the Tłı̄ch̄ Government wrote to the Government of Canada, expressing a need for a collaborative tool to strengthen knowledge about the future of the Slave Geological Province (SGP) and to find the right balance of economic, social, and environmental benefits for the general wellbeing of people in the region.

The region is an important one for cultural well-being, way of life, and caribou and the region has significant potential for economic development. In June 2022, MVEIRB convened a two-day workshop to begin a conversation on what a regional strategic environmental assessment (RSEA) in the SGP could look like.

Outcomes from the workshop included:

- Development of common understanding and terminology for RSEA
- Discussion of opportunities and challenges of application of RSEA to the SGP
- Discussion of the governance of the RSEA, with a focus on collaboration and partnership
- Development of submissions to federal Minister requesting RSEA
- Engagement with parties from Nunavut, given the SGP as a transboundary region

As practices for RSEA in Canada evolve, its potential as a tool to inform existing processes (e.g., impact assessment and land use planning) and support Indigenous self-determination will be more broadly understood. Key takeaways from the discussion of regional and strategic assessment approaches include:

- **RSEAs can be used as a tool for Indigenous empowerment, self-determination, and decision-making:** RSEAs can serve as a tool for Indigenous empowerment to support long-term planning and decision making, including weighing the cumulative effects from developments on culture, socio-economic factors, and wellbeing.
- **A clear vision for an RSEA is a critical part of the scoping process:** Carefully scoping outcomes and establishing a clear vision for the use of the RSEA in the scoping phase is critical. RSEAs differ from land use planning as they are values and outcomes based, whereas land use planning is about determining the desired use of geographic regions. RSEAs can be used as a tool to inform land use planning and impact assessments if they are effectively scoped to support these processes. For example, given the likelihood of a road corridor in the SGP, cumulative effects assessments and cumulative effects scenarios from the

road coordinator could be scoped into the RSEA for the region.

- **The evolving RSEA landscape in Canada will inform ongoing approaches to RSEAs:** Two other regional assessments are underway under the Impact Assessment Act, for the Saint Lawrence River Area and the Ring of Fire Area. There are likely opportunities to learn from these processes as they evolve. Additional lessons from the NIRB's SEA of the Baffin Bay and Davis Strait should also inform upcoming RSEAs. Key reflections from that process included that the SEA required a significant amount of upfront planning, including to establish clear objectives and to work with communities. Resources and capacity for the Boards was significant, especially given the need for disseminating results and working collaboratively throughout the SEA. Many lessons were learned through this initiative about community engagement, which the Board now applies to all of its work.



Boards identified the following actions to maintain momentum on the discussion of regional and strategic assessment approaches:

- **Continued dialogue and collaboration on regional and strategic assessment approaches:** At the 2021 PTBF, participants raised the idea of developing a Pan-Territorial Communique on regional studies. The intended purpose of this document was to share the Board's collective thoughts on a northern framework for regional and strategic assessment approaches. While participants see value in territorial collaboration on regional and strategic studies, participants decided to move forward with continued dialogue, discussion, and collaboration between Boards, rather than moving forward with a Communique.
- **Building capacity, knowledge and understanding of regional and strategic assessment approaches within northern Boards:** Boards will work together to learn from one another on the approaches being taken, and to build capacity to support these evolving processes.
- **Supporting Indigenous-led approaches to regional and strategic assessments:** Boards will support Indigenous communities in self-determining their priorities and facilitating meaningful and inclusive conversations which are Indigenous-led and grounded in respect and collaboration. For example, YESAB is working with Yukon First Nations to bring their attention to s.112 of the YESAA as a tool for geographic and/or cumulative effects studies and research.

The key takeaway from the discussion is that there is growing interest and application of these tools to achieve multiple objectives, including to support self-determination, development planning and decision-making, and that lessons from previous regional and strategic assessment approaches should help to inform continued application of these tools. There are opportunities for continued learning and collaboration between Boards on approaches to regional and strategic assessment.

Approaches to the Regulatory Process for Remediation Projects and Planning for Closure

Although the Boards are assessing various remediation projects and integrating planning for mine closure into assessments and licensing of new projects, this topic has never been fulsomely discussed at a Pan-Territorial Board Forum. The purpose of this agenda item was for assessment Boards and Licensing Boards to engage with each other to start the conversation on this topic to define the landscape, learn from one another, and identify potential next steps for coordination across jurisdictions.

Common Themes between Assessment and Licencing, Permitting and Monitoring

Many themes were common between assessment and licensing and permitting, including increased need for enhancing trust with communities, using remediation as a healing process, and applying lessons learned from remediation projects to inform closure planning. Key themes from this discussion include:

- **Boards are working to enhance trust, meaningful communication, and healing through remediation:** Boards commented that many of these projects never meaningfully included communities, who often felt direct impacts from these projects and continue to experience ongoing impacts. Remediation is now an opportunity to heal these relationships through ceremony, acknowledgment of the past, ongoing communication, and meaningful engagement in the projects. These projects offer a path to reconciliation for many communities. However, Boards noted a few challenges associated with this including that communities may not be ready to move forward to consider future uses until healing and trust has been established, and there may be limited capacity for proponents to engage communities on their closure or remediation commitments. Broader considerations for healing and reconciliation may not be effectively dealt with through regulatory processes and need to be addressed through other mechanisms. Boards need to ensure these issues are brought forward and meaningfully addressed.
- **Boards are challenged by remediation projects as impacts are already present:** As these projects are already having impacts on the environment, it can be challenging for Boards to manage expectations of rightsholders and stakeholders to the project. Boards have had to work with communities to manage their expectations and clarify that these regions will never be the same and/or usable as pre-development, that there may be new impacts from the remediation work, and that some remediation activities may cause more damage than simply leaving the site in its present stage. It has been challenging for Boards to navigate these conversations and for communities to appreciate the challenges associated with these large, contaminated sites.
- **Boards are focusing on socio-cultural aspects of remediation and closure:** For projects with impacts in perpetuity, Boards acknowledge the need to shift their approach to focus more on the ongoing impacts to people and how to mitigate these effects. As planning for closure or remediation occurs, there may be opportunities for Boards to engage with communities to plan for these projects and enhance healing and reconciliation.
- **Boards are applying lessons learned from remediation projects to closure planning:** As new projects are going through assessment, licensing and permitting, Boards are applying lessons learned from remediation into closure planning. Lessons include the need for assessment to mitigate potential impacts

from closure and encourage ongoing closure and remediation, the need to clearly establish a vision for closure from the start, and the need to take an ongoing and adaptive management approach (especially for projects with impacts in perpetuity). Boards are applying these lessons as they provide guidance to proponents putting forward new mineral development projects.

Assessment Processes

Remediation projects require a different approach to the assessment process, which has been challenging for Boards to navigate. However, these learnings are key to support new projects as they plan for closure. Key takeaways from the discussion of assessment approaches for remediation projects and planning for closure include:

- **Remediation projects require a different approach to assessment due to baseline data availability and interpretation:** Remediation projects are not being assessed against pre-development baseline conditions and the baseline environmental conditions are those of contamination or of significant impacts on the environment. These baseline conditions may be constantly shifting, or it may be challenging to establish the source of contamination. As such, remediation projects going through assessment need to be assessed against remediation objectives, rather than pre-development baseline conditions. The assessment needs to clearly demonstrate how the proposed activities will meet these objectives.
- **Lessons learned from the assessment for the Faro Mine Remediation Project include the need for ongoing engagement and dialogue to build trust, discussions of ‘reference conditions’, and the importance of setting clear objectives for assessment:** YESAB has taken an innovative approach to the assessment of the Faro Mine Remediation Project (FMRP) which is premised on:
 - Engagement and dialogue with the participating First Nations to build trust and ensure their ongoing involvement in the project, including through socio-economic benefits and opportunities
 - A recognition that the remediation will not meet pre-mine conditions. As such, YESAB is using language of ‘reference conditions’ rather than ‘baseline conditions’ for the assessment of the project
 - Assessment against thresholds and indicators which are informed by participating First Nations and the desired future uses for the site. Monitoring to be informed by community-based indicators for remediation
- **Closure activities may create significant effects on the environment or socio-economic conditions:** Assessment processes are looking to mitigate harms or significant impacts, rather than perpetuate them. However, mine closure may have significant impacts on the environment or nearby communities. Boards recognize that the options that are chosen for closure creates impacts, and the role of assessment is to ensure these are mitigated effectively through ongoing monitoring programs, collaborative governance structures, finding ways to enhance positive legacy effects through closure planning and building trust, and autonomy and understanding of the closure process throughout the project lifecycle. Closure planning also requires an understanding of liability for infrastructure which will be left on the site and establishing plans for ongoing management and monitoring of this infrastructure.

Licencing, Permitting and Monitoring Processes

Boards are experiencing a lot of uncertainty as it relates to licensing processes for remediation and closure projects. Key takeaways from the discussion of licensing and permitting approaches for remediation projects and planning for closure include:

- **Boards are challenged by limited experience with project closure and regulatory uncertainty as it relates to closure:** Northern Boards have limited experience with projects following closure as most contaminated sites in Canada's north have yet to undergo closure or remediation or major project sites have yet to be relinquished. As a result, there is considerable regulatory uncertainty as it relates to the licensing, permitting, and ongoing monitoring for remediation or closure projects. Boards commented that there is no defined process or mechanism for closing, adapting (i.e., going from a Type A Licence to a Type B Licence) or concluding a Licence post-closure or following active remediation. There is also limited guidance on preliminary screening of remediation projects, relinquishing security, and re-entering remediated sites for exploration or development. In the Mackenzie Valley, Boards also commented that Remedial Action Plans do not provide a good vision for project closure and do not meet the Board's requirements under their closure guidelines. This uncertainty reduces the incentives for proponents to conduct progressive reclamation and means that Boards are navigating uncertainty as they navigate these issues on individual projects (rather than having a clear path forward at the outset).
- **Perpetual activities of closure and remediation increase uncertainty for Boards:** Remediation and closure projects will likely require ongoing monitoring and adaptive management. The vision of these ongoing activities often differs between proponents and reviewers during closure. Additionally, proponents often have limited capacity to engage and fulfill closure goals and ongoing activities. As projects are closed or remediated, their activities may change, which may require re-screening and/or a return to assessment. As these projects have long-term implications, Boards are starting to think about approaches to provide guidance to new projects and/or remediation projects as they go through assessment to consider these questions.
- **Practices for setting securities for mine closure and remediation are unclear:** As uncertainties surrounding the project change, or remediation is ongoing, the security setting for these projects needs to evolve. However, the triggers for changing securities or returning securities are unclear. Boards are grappling with this uncertainty and are concerned about how to navigate these questions for remediation and closure projects. At the same time, security is receiving more attention and scrutiny. Boards thus require additional guidance and clarity from landowners on these processes.

Support for Remediation and Closure

As the practices for assessment, permitting, licencing, and monitoring remediation and closure projects evolves, Boards require different actors to support these processes. Table 3 below identifies actions needed from Boards, inspectors, landowners, governments, and communities.

Table 3: Support Needed for Remediation and Closure

Actors	Support needed
Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking at Interim Closure Plans or Closure Objectives during the assessment process. Not requiring finalized closure plans from proponents at the IA stage given uncertainties around closure at the pre-development stage. Rather, encouraging proponents to submit their project to IA at closure so that the project activities and impacts are better understood. This would allow Boards to make better informed predictions and establish better mitigation measures than at the impact assessment stage. Establishing better practices around ongoing updates to closure plans for operating projects to better understand the approach to plan for closure
Inspectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign offs to support closure of licences Providing recommendations on the release of security for remediation and to inform Board decisions
Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of risk tolerance and willingness to embrace creative solutions for closure and remediation
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater involvement in monitoring of closure and remediation projects Developing greater understanding of remediation outcomes and desired future uses Creating additional legislative basis through amendments, policy, and guidelines to limit Boards' uncertainty in managing remediation and closure projects
Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly articulating their desired future uses and outcomes they are hoping to see through closure and remediation to support regulatory processes Greater involvement in monitoring
Proponents and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of wellbeing impacts and mitigation measures during closure planning to support a people-centered approach to regulatory processes

Northern assessment and licensing and permitting Boards are assessing various remediation projects and integrating planning for mine closure into assessments and licensing for new projects. Boards have many key learnings through these processes, but many challenges and uncertainties remain, including the complexity of these projects, the need to monitor and manage them in perpetuity, and the importance of healing and reconciliation.

Closing

In closing, participants provided key reflections on the 2022 Forum. These included reflections on what worked well about the planning and delivery of the 2022 Forum, what could be improved in the future and ongoing follow-up to the annual Forum. Feedback on what worked well include:

- Opening the Forum in a good way by the Yellowknives Dene First Nations drummers
- Discussions of human resources, retention, and Indigenous employment as these have been an important and relevant theme for all of the Boards
- Allocating time for discussions between impact assessment Boards and licensing Boards on remediation and planning for closure
- Participants remarked that the facilitation worked well and appreciated the flexibility to accommodate larger group discussions as this helped to learn from one another

Opportunities for improvement include:

- Schedule the Forum to coincide with less of a busy season for Boards
- Provide background information on each of the Board's context, legislation, and unique circumstances to increase understanding of areas of alignment between jurisdictions. It was noted that a similar exercise was conducted at one of the first Forum's and there may be an opportunity to leverage this work for future Forums
- Explore opportunities to bring in IK/TK and culture into the Forum agenda to enhance reconciliation-based practices and learning

Suggested ongoing or follow-up activities to the annual Forum include:

- IA Boards meet regularly through the existing EA improvement initiative, which is not currently supported by the Government of Canada. There may be an opportunity for this initiative to report into the Forum and/or set joint meetings
- Maintain continuity of discussions between meetings on topics identified for ongoing discussions in Forum reports. Participants suggested that ongoing discussions related to HR practices, including regional liaisons to better engage community in the full regulatory lifecycle/process and/or results of HR pilots (YESAB piloting 3 days/week in the office) may be a good first topic of discussion
- Develop joint workplan of Forum initiatives and seek support for these from the Government of Canada
- Consider ongoing external resource to support discussions throughout the year

Finally, the NIRB offered to host the 2023 Forum in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Appendix A: Participants List

Region	Participating Boards – EA	Participating Boards – LWB
Mackenzie Valley	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Cliffe-Phillips 2. Kate Mansfield 3. Catherine Fairbairn 4. Chuck Hubert 5. Simon Toogood 6. Eileen Marlowe 7. Jeremy Freeman 8. Clementine Bouche 9. Stacey Menzies 10. Malorey Nirlungayuk 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Angela Plautz (MVLWB) 12. Shelagh Montgomery (MVLWB) 13. Lindsey Cymbalisky (MVLWB) 14. Leonard DeBastien (GLWB) 15. Roger Fraser (GLWB) 16. Anneli Jokela (WLWB) 17. Kimberley Murray (MVLWB) 18. Heather Scott (MVLWB) 19. Shannon Allerston (MVLWB)
ISR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. David Livingstone (EISC) 21. Todd Slack (EISC) 22. Alice Lutkladio (EIRB) 	
Nunavut	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Karen Costello (NIRB) 24. Keith Morrison (NIRB) 25. Tara Arko (NIRB) 26. Kelli Gillard (NIRB) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27. Karén Kharatyan (NWB) 28. Ali Shaikh (NWB)
Yukon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Kim Winnicky (YESAB) 30. Rox-Anne Duchesne (YESAB) 31. Kent Bretzlaff (YESAB) 	
CanNor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 32. Manik Duggar 33. Tyla Ahluwalia 34. Kaitlyn Bakker 35. Lisa Dyer 	
Stratos	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 36. Vicky Weekes 37. Emily Caddell 	

Appendix B: Forum Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, November 1st

Location: Baker Centre, 5710 Franklin Ave, Yellowknife

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
	8:45 – 9:00	Settling In
1	9:00 – 9:30 30 minutes	Welcome & Roundtable Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening from YKDFN drummers (5 mins) • Welcome from CanNor (5 mins) • Roundtable introductions (10 mins) • Review of PTBF objectives and agenda for the Forum (5 mins) • Housekeeping (5 mins)
2	9:30 – 10:30 60 minutes	Light PESTLE Brainstorm and SWOT Analysis: Taking Stock <i>Purpose: Since the last Forum, there have been significant changes in context for northern assessment and licencing Boards (e.g., renegotiated or impending new agreements, experiences of the direct impacts of climate change, launch of Canada’s critical minerals strategy, etc.). The purpose of this agenda item is to take stock of the changing context for northern Boards.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking Stock – Part 1 (20 min): Brainstorm on changes in context facing northern Boards, considering: political, economic, socio-cultural, technological, legal or environmental factors (PESTLE) • Taking Stock – Part 2 (40 min): Reflection on Opportunities, Threats, Strengths and Challenges (SWOT) for northern Boards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Given the changes in context identified... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What opportunities and threats exist for northern Boards? ▪ What strengths and challenges are present for northern Boards? • Stand back reflections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are there any opportunities, threats, strengths or challenges we’d like to address together?
	10:30 – 10:45 15 minutes	Break
3	10:45 – 12:00	Internal Board Updates <i>Purpose: This session is an opportunity to share updates on initiatives Boards are implementing, specifically on themes</i>

	75 minutes	<i>identified in the pre-Forum survey (i.e., engagement and collaboration initiatives, updates to website or public registries, approaches to address amended HR legislation, new key initiatives).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by 5 Boards (10 mins each + 5 min Q&A) (template provided)
	12:00 – 1:00 60 minutes	Lunch (Provided by MVEIRB)
4	1:00 – 1:30 30 minutes	Internal Board Updates (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by 2 Boards (10 mins each + 5 min Q&A)
5	1:30 – 2:30 60 minutes	Phased Developments <i>Purpose: Project amendments and licence renewals for phased developments were discussed during the 2021 Forum and identified as a topic of interest for further discussion. The purpose of this agenda item is to further explore how phased developments are experienced by Boards to both understand the challenges and practices that Boards are using with these types of projects.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table discussion on phased developments (50 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How is the issue of phased development showing up in your Board? Consider: challenges, successful examples, test around project splitting, considerations from rights holders or stakeholders • Identification of emerging themes from roundtable discussion (10 minutes)
	2:30 – 2:45 15 mins	Break
6	2:45 – 3:45 60 minutes	Phased Developments (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout group discussions on themes identified– participants to self-select by topic (30 minutes) • Plenary report back (15 minutes) • Light Discussion: What do we see as next steps following this discussion to support assessment and licencing of phased developments? (15 minutes)
7	3:45 – 4:00 15 minutes	Day 1 Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Day 1 and reminder of evening social
	5:30 -	Optional Social Event (reservation at Brew Pub)

Day 2: Wednesday, November 2nd

Location: Baker Centre, 5710 Franklin Ave, Yellowknife

No.	Timing	Agenda Item and Discussion Questions
	8:45 – 9:00 15 minutes	Settling In
1	9:00 – 9:15 15 minutes	Welcome Back & Day 2 Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick recap of the previous day’s discussion • Review agenda for today’s session
2	9:15 – 11 90 minutes	Climate Change Considerations <p><i>Purpose: As governments develop climate change policies, the approaches for how climate change is handled in assessment and licencing processes are evolving. The purpose of this agenda item is to support mutual learning on how climate change considerations are currently being factored into Board processes and to explore what else is needed to do this successfully.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of how climate change considerations have been factored into assessment processes to date (sharing by YESAB, MVEIRB and NIRB and considerations for project screening) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 min / presentation + 5 min Q&A (45 mins) • Sharing on challenges, successful examples and outstanding questions of how climate change is carried forward into licencing processes (sharing by EISC, MV LWBs, NWB, IWB) (45 mins)
	11– 11:15 15 minutes	Break
3	11:15 – 12:00 45 minutes	Climate Change Considerations (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on implications (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Given the discussion... what lessons exist for coordination between Boards as projects move through assessment to licencing? ○ What is needed from 1) Proponents; 2) Governments; and 3) Other Stakeholders to support considerations of climate change in assessment and licencing processes?
	12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
	1:00 – 2:30 90 minutes	Cumulative Effects <p><i>Purpose: In June 2021, the Supreme Court of British Columbia held that the cumulative effects of multiple projects may form the basis of a treaty rights infringement. This decision, known as Yahey vs. British Columbia, was the first of its kind in Canada linking cumulative effects to treaty infringement and has sparked discussions about its potential implications. The purpose of</i></p>

		<p><i>this agenda item is to collectively reflect on the implications of this decision and what it means for advancing Board practices as it relates to cumulative effects.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small group discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the implications of the Yahey vs. British Columbia (Blueberry River First Nation) decision for your Board / northern Boards more broadly? ○ What approaches has your Board applied to reflect IK/TK and Indigenous rights in the consideration of cumulative effects in assessment and licensing processes? ○ How do these implications inform what is needed to properly assess, manage and monitor cumulative effects? • Plenary report back
	2:30 – 2:45 15 minutes	Break
3	2:45 – 3:45 60 minutes	<p>Regional Studies</p> <p><i>Purpose: Regional and strategic assessment approaches are an established tool in Canada and internationally to better understand cumulative effects at a regional scale, consider broader scale development than a project-by-project approach and assess potential policies, plans and programs. They include a range of approaches such as cumulative effects studies, class or sector-based assessments, and strategic future assessments. The purpose of this agenda item is to explore the potential of this tool to assess, manage and monitor cumulative effects of projects.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study: Initiation of a RSEA for the Slave Geological Province (MVEIRB) (10 minutes) • Discussion (40 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the approach to initiate or call for an RSEA? Does the approach differ across jurisdictions? ○ How can RSEA and other regional tools be used to assess, manage and monitor cumulative effects of projects? ○ Development of Common Glossary for Regional Studies • Developing a Pan-Territorial Communique on Regional Studies (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of Pan-Territorial Communique on Regional Studies (MVEIRB) ○ Is there interest to move forward with framework document or other actions?
5	3:45 – 4:00 15 minutes	<p>Day 2 Wrap Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Day 2 • Reminder of evening social
	5:45 -	Optional Evening Social (Copper House)

Day 3: Thursday, November 3rd

Location: Baker Centre, 5710 Franklin Ave, Yellowknife

No.	Timing	Agenda Item and Discussion Questions
	8:45 – 9:00	Settling In
1	9:00 – 9:15 15 minutes	Welcome Back & Day 3 Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick recap of the discussion to date • Review agenda for Day 3
2	9:15 – 10:00 45 minutes	Approaches to Assess / Licence Remediation Projects and Plan for Closure <i>Purpose: Although northern assessment and licencing Boards are assessing various remediation projects and integrating planning for mine closure into assessments and licencing of new projects, this topic has never been fulsomely discussed at a Pan-Territorial Board Forum. The purpose of this agenda item is to start the conversation on this topic to define the landscape, learn from one another and identify potential next steps for coordination across jurisdictions.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout group discussion by Assessment and Licencing Boards (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment: What have been some key learnings from the assessment of remediation projects to date (e.g., discussion of baseline conditions, trigger for assessment of remediation, socio-economic impacts and benefits)? What have been some of your key learnings from the assessment of closure plans? Are there any common themes or challenges? ○ Licencing: What have been some key learnings from the licencing of remediation projects to date? What approaches are Boards taking to plan for closure in the licencing process for new projects (e.g., approaches to setting securities, licence in perpetuity, etc.)? Are there any common themes or challenges?
	10:00 – 10:15 15 minutes	Break
3	10:15 – 11:15 60 minutes	Approaches to Assess / Permit Remediation Projects (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary report back (20 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment Boards (10 minutes) ○ Licencing Boards (10 minutes) • Round table discussion (40 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are some of the best practices, successful projects, or case studies to highlight and why? ○ As you look across closure planning and remediation of projects, are there any common themes, issues, or challenges? ○ As you think about common challenges, what approaches do Boards have to resolve these issues (i.e., within

		your control) and what do you need from others?
4	11:15 – 12:00 45 mins	Wrap Up & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap up of 2022 PTBF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feedback on current Forum format ○ Closing roundtable ○ Discussion for the Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plans for the next gathering ▪ Ongoing initiatives ○ Closing in a good way by the YKDFN drummers