



December 13, 2023

Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
MVEIRB Executive Director  
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Via Email: [mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca](mailto:mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca)

## **Federal Participation in the Environmental Assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02)**

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Dear Mark Cliffe-Phillips,

The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency's Northern Project's Management Office (NPMO), as the coordinating agency for federal participation in the Mackenzie Valley Highway environmental assessment (EA), is pleased to confirm the Government of Canada's participation in the EA process.

Please find attached a summary of the roles and status of Government of Canada departments who will be participating in the Mackenzie Valley Highway EA process. This is based on department's current understanding of the proposed project and may be subject to change as more information becomes available.

Please contact Shannon Allerston ([shannon.allerston@cannor.gc.ca](mailto:shannon.allerston@cannor.gc.ca)) if you have any questions regarding the attached summary.

Sincerely,

Carey Sibbald  
A/Director General  
Northern Projects Management Office  
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Attachment: Federal Roles and Status Summary for EA1213-02

Cc CC Recipients

**Canada** 

GCDOCS # 119188052

### Federal Roles and Status Summary for EA1213-02

<p>Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) works with Northerners and Indigenous peoples, communities, businesses, organizations, other federal departments, and orders of government to support long-term sustainability and economic prosperity across the territories.</li> <li>• NPMO will coordinate the input of federal departments to the environmental assessment (EA) process.</li> <li>• NPMO acts as Crown Consultation Coordinator and will track issues identified during the EA and documents Crown consultation to assist with fulfilling the Crown's duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate impacts resulting from the proposed project.</li> </ul>
<p>Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIRNAC supports effective and efficient impact assessments in the north, including participating in decisions for projects on federal lands and supporting Indigenous and northern participation.</li> <li>• The Minister of Northern Affairs is not a federal responsible minister for the proposed project, however CIRNAC will participate to provide expert advice where appropriate under its mandate.</li> <li>• The Minister of Northern Affairs will coordinate the federal responsible ministers' consolidated decision on the proposed project.</li> <li>• CIRNAC is also providing participant funding through its Northern Participant Funding Program.</li> </ul>
<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFO is the federal department responsible to conserve and protect fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. DFO administers and ensures compliance for development projects taking place in and around fish and fish habitat under the provisions of the <i>Fisheries Act</i>.</li> <li>• The proposed project will require DFO review and may require a <i>Fisheries Act</i> Authorization from DFO for works in or near water, therefore, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada is expecting to be a federal responsible minister for the proposed project and DFO will participate to provide expert advice on potential impacts on fish and fish habitat.</li> </ul>
<p>Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRCan is the federal department responsible for improving the quality of life of Canadians by enhancing the contribution of the natural resource sectors to the economy, and conducting innovative science to generate ideas as well as transfer technologies.</li> <li>• Whether the Minister of Natural Resources Canada is a federal responsible minister for the proposed project remains undetermined.</li> <li>• NRCan, through its role in the administration of the <i>Explosives Act</i>, may exercise a power or perform a duty or function that would enable the project to proceed.</li> <li>• NRCan will participate to provide expert advice on potential impacts from the proposed project on permafrost.</li> </ul>



Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ECCC is the federal department responsible for protecting and conserving Canada’s natural heritage, predicting weather and environmental conditions, preventing and managing pollution, and promoting clean growth and a sustainable environment for present and future generations.</li><li>• The Minister of Environment and Climate Change is not a federal responsible minister for the proposed project but ECCC will participate to provide expert advice on potential impacts on species at risk under its authority, migratory birds, climate change, air quality, water quality, and/or environmental emergencies.</li></ul>
Transport Canada (TC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TC is the federal department responsible for transportation policies and programs. The Department promotes safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible transportation.</li><li>• Whether the Minister of Transportation is a federal responsible minister for the proposed project remains undetermined.</li><li>• TC will not be issuing any approval(s) for the Project, including under the <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i>.</li><li>• TC is providing funding for the Project through the National Trade Corridors Fund.</li><li>• TC can provide expert advice on potential impacts of the Project on waterways used for traditional transport or travel.</li></ul>
Health Canada (HC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HC is the federal department responsible for helping Canadians maintain and improve their health.</li><li>• The Minister of Health is not a federal responsible minister for the proposed project but HC will participate to provide advice on potential impacts on human health including air quality health effects, contamination of country foods, drinking and recreational water quality, radiological effects, electric and magnetic fields, and noise impacts.</li><li>• HC can provide advice on human health risk assessment and on public health emergency management of toxic exposure events.</li></ul>

Cc Recipients:

Joanna Ankersmit  
Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch  
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Hilary Oakman  
A/Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Nicole Cote  
Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate  
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Susan Archer  
A/Director General  
Natural Resources Canada

Shari Currie  
Director General, Prairie and Northern Region  
Transport Canada

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A/Regional Director General  
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Isabelle Lampron  
A/National Director, Environmental Health and IPP Programs  
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