

Evolving Environmental Impact Assessment in the Mackenzie Valley and Beyond

A Perspectives Paper
Presentation to OAIA

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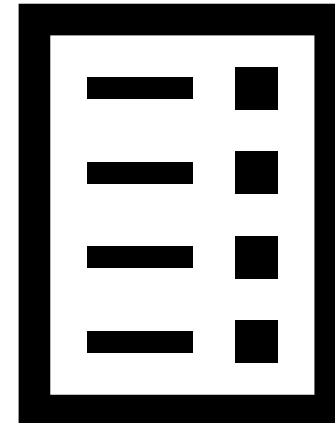
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Outline

- Introduction, context, rationale for the paper
- Continuous improvement themes
 - *Well-being*
 - *Climate change*
 - *Regional Strategic EA*
 - *Collaborative project planning*
- Why it matters?



Why did we write this paper?

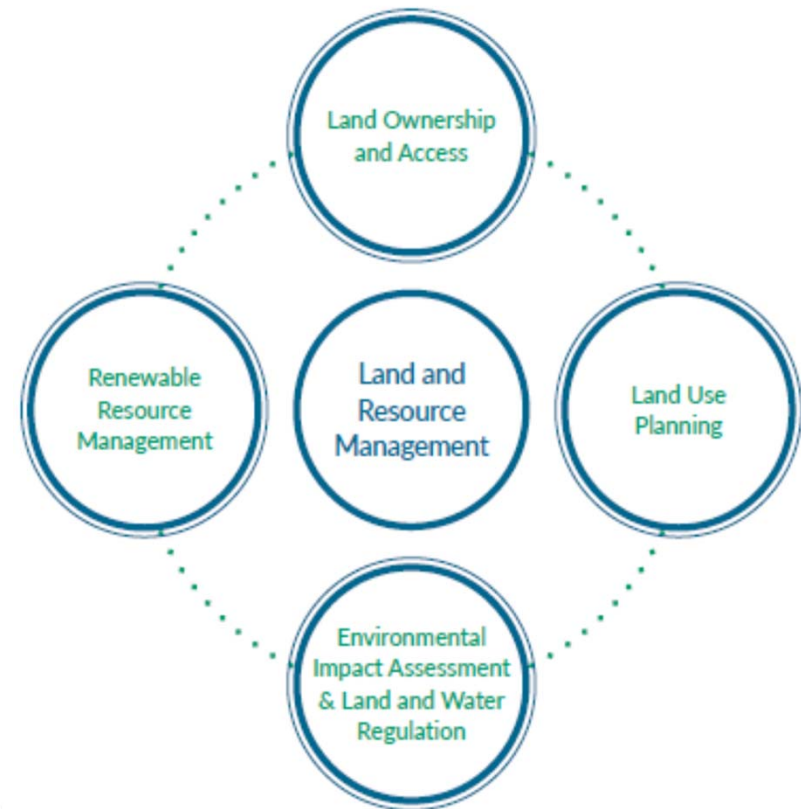
- **Encourage dialogue** and support continuous improvement
- **Share our perspective** on key themes in EA, considering emerging practices in the Mackenzie Valley & across Canada
- **Board's commitment to continuous improvement**





EA in the Mackenzie Valley: part of an integrated system rooted in land claim agreements

Land Claims of the NWT



Review Board Members



EA in the Mackenzie Valley: Key Considerations

- Fair, transparent, inclusive, evidence-based EA processes
- Whole environment
- Indigenous knowledge as key source of evidence
- Well-being & way of life
- Diverse contexts, values, and views



EA in the Mackenzie Valley: Consultation, collaboration, reconciliation



- **Inclusive and participatory** EA processes
- The resource management regime and co-management structures **support reconciliation** through shared decision-making, collaborative and participatory processes, and the inclusion of Indigenous world-views and values.



Key themes for Continuous Improvement



Well-being



Consideration of climate change



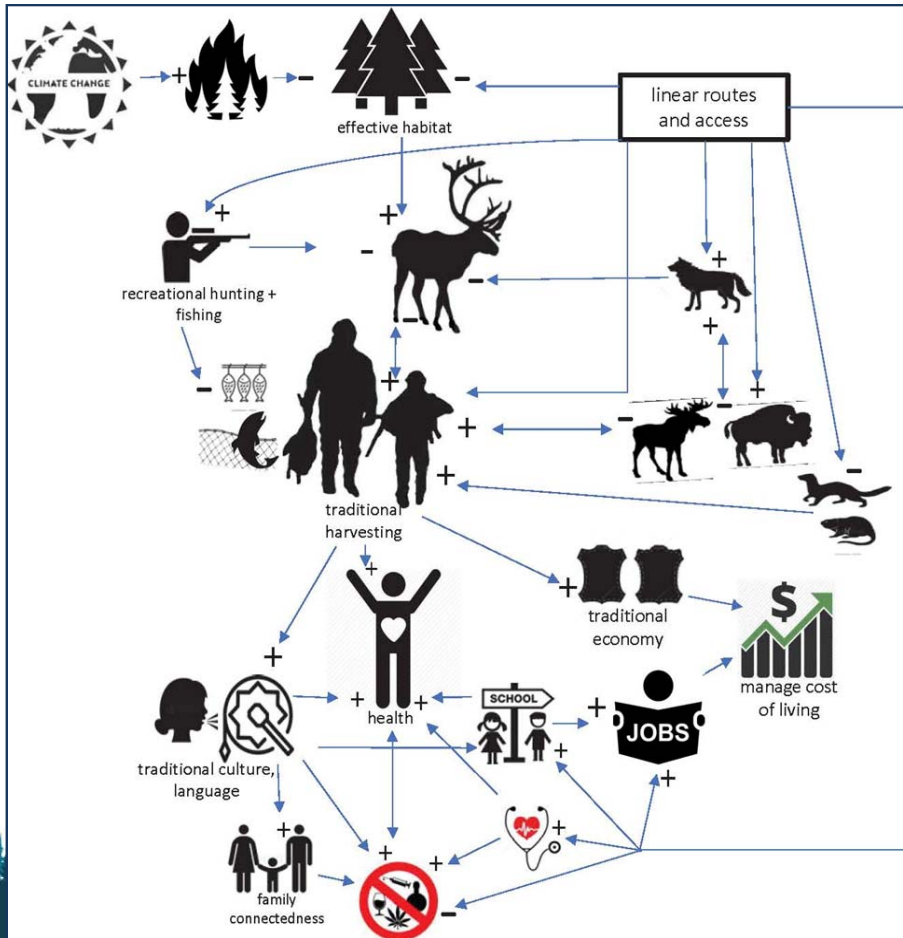
Cumulative effects & Regional Strategic EA



Collaborative project planning and early engagement



1. Why well-being?



- **Mandate**
- **Track record**
- **We want to get more systematic and collaborative about how we do this.**

A systematic approach to assessing well-being



Reflect the different contexts in which people experience impacts, and the different value systems within the Mackenzie Valley

Define and track impacts against community-driven indicators of well-being

Go beyond socio-economic and cultural impact assessments to consider communities' visions of their own well-being and whether a proposed project contributes or hinders that vision

Incorporate sustainability to seriously consider all aspects of well-being for current and future generations



Well-being: next steps



- Produce new guidelines – How to assess impacts on people
- Engage
- Revisit existing guidance
- Promote value and encourage development of community driven well-being indicators to support assessment, mitigation, and monitoring



2. Climate Change – a critical lens for EA in the north



- **Project Resilience & Adaptability**
 - Manage climate-related risks
- **Uncertainty in impact predictions**
 - Changing climate affects future baseline
- **GHG Emissions**
 - Need to assess project emissions in the context of government policy frameworks & carbon budgets
 - For now, Board focus on best-in-class low carbon technology



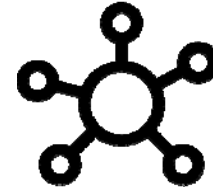
Climate Change – Path Forward



- **Work with government and other partners** to provide guidance to developers on information & assessment needs
- Look to **other jurisdictions**
- We need government and other EA participants to bring their **knowledge & expertise** so our assessments are well informed.
- Use local and **Indigenous Knowledge** to improve understanding



3. Cumulative effects and RSEA



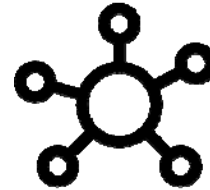
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- Cumulative problems **need cumulative solutions**
 - Regional studies and **regional strategic EA** offer an opportunity to get the **right lens** and take **collaborative approaches** to understanding the **broader context** and the **root causes** of cumulative effects



Cumulative effects & RSEA



- **RSEA can be a helpful** addition to the resource mgmt. system
 - Non-binding, but informs and respects decision-making at multiple levels
- **Review Board has a role** to play
 - We have experience conducting meaningful community engagement, hold high public confidence, work effectively in collaboration with diverse EIA participants, and have experience coordinating initiatives across the integrated resource management system in the Mackenzie Valley.



4. Collaborative project planning and early engagement

Project design



Early community
engagement



Consider land use
and culture



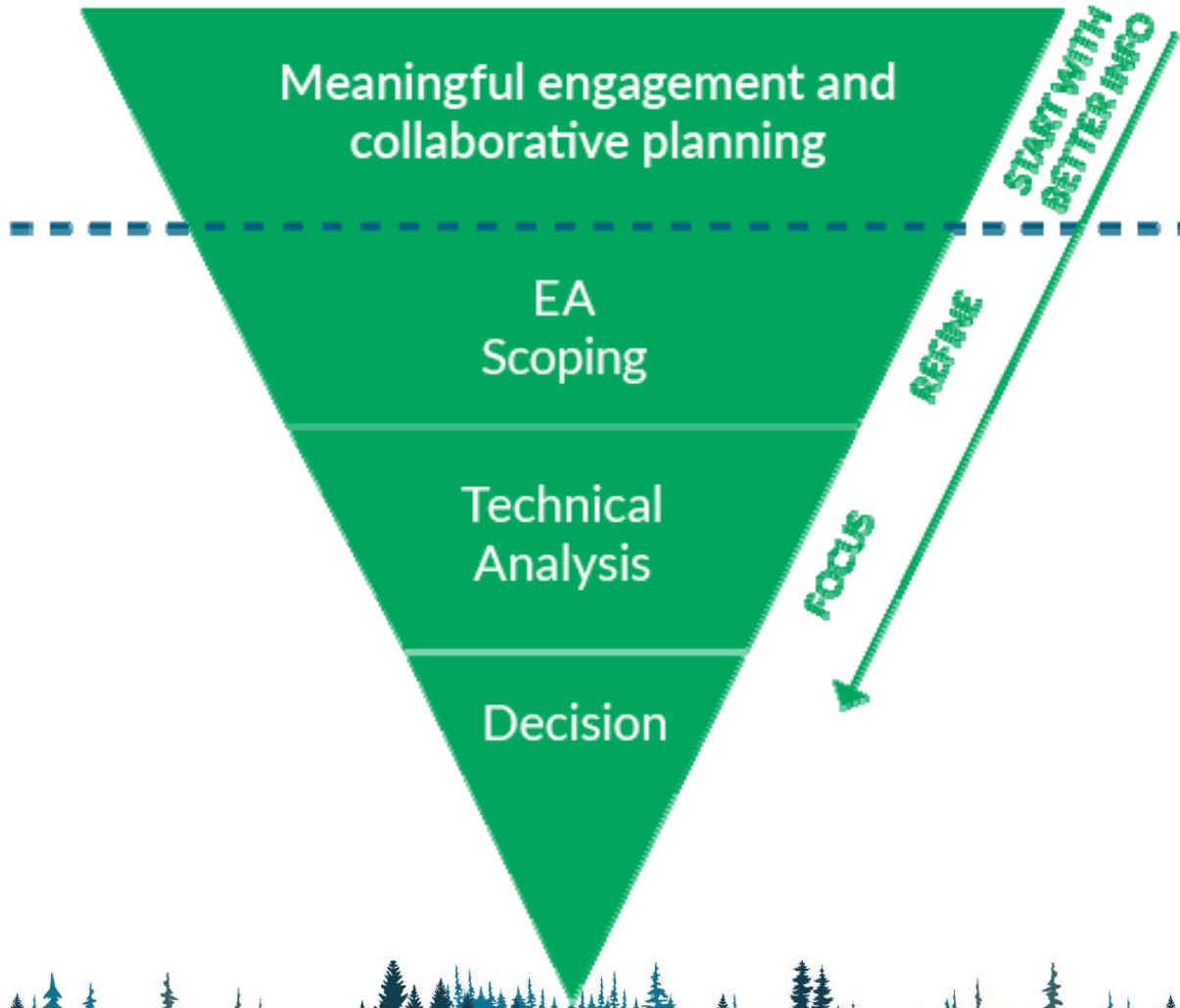
Collaborative Project Planning - Path Forward



- **Critical step** toward successful EA and project approval
- **Guidance for developers**
 - Setting up for effective EA
 - Finding efficiencies
- **Engagement & Consultation Policy – How to build better relationships**

Continuing outreach and engagement





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Project defined



Moving forward together



Why it matters? A Review Board perspective

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Trust and transparency



- Communities know industry has technical abilities
- Communities don't always trust the values directing how technical abilities will be used
- Direct involvement designing and carrying out project and mitigation design, along with involvement in collection of data can **increase trust**
 - = more social license to operate and positive well-being outcomes



EA, Indigenous Knowledge, well-being, and reconciliation



- Within EA the Review Board can:
 - Genuinely consider Indigenous Knowledge
 - Mitigate impacts on well-being & way of life of Indigenous people
 - Make processes responsive and adaptable to community needs
 - Move the yardstick on engagement from consultation to collaboration



Mársı | Kinanāskomitin | Thank you |
Merci | Haj' | Quana | Qujannamiik |
Quyanainni | Máhsı | Máhsı | Mahsı
Questions?



Our contact information:

www.reviewboard.ca

