

# Integrated Assessments for Designated Nuclear Projects

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# Outline

- Federal Oversight of Designated Nuclear Projects
- Integrated Assessments
- Finding Efficiencies
- Key Takeaways

# Federal Oversight of Designated Nuclear Projects

## BACKGROUND



# Impact Assessment Act (2019)

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Under the ***Impact Assessment Act (IAA)***, impact assessments are used to assess the positive and negative effects of major projects to the environment, to health, social and economic conditions, and for preventing significant adverse effects within federal jurisdiction.





# Designated Nuclear Activities

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The *Physical Activities Regulations* (s.26-29) under the IAA currently identifies the following types of nuclear projects as “designated projects”:

- **Nuclear facilities** (production capacity 100 t/year or more)
- **Nuclear reactors** (greenfield sites- combined 200 megawatts thermal or existing licensed sites- combined 900 megawatts thermal)
- **Facilities for the storage and disposal of nuclear waste**
- **Uranium mines and mills** (2500 t/day)



Activities subject to the IAA and regulated under the ***Nuclear Safety and Control Act (NSCA)*** will undergo an integrated assessment.

# IAAC & CNSC's MOU

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## Memorandum of Understanding on Integrated Impact Assessments under the – *Impact Assessment Act*

The main objectives include:

- Providing an overarching framework for integrated assessments
- Describing roles and responsibilities
- Ensuring statutory requirements of the IAA and NSCA are met
- Facilitating timely and consistent information sharing and coordination
- Facilitating coordinated public engagement and Indigenous consultation

# Integrated Assessments

“ONE PROJECT, ONE ASSESSMENT”



# What is an integrated assessment?

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When a project includes activities regulated under the NSCA, the Minister must refer the impact assessment to an integrated review panel. IAAC and the CNSC:

- cooperate with the common objective that all their requirements are achieved in a single integrated assessment;
- assess potential effects over the lifecycle of the project and considers the first licensing phase of a nuclear facility (e.g., site preparation)



*“One project, one assessment”*

**Integrated assessment outcome:** Two timely decisions - IA decision under the IAA and licensing decision under the NSCA



# CNSC Lifecycle Oversight

- The integrated assessment process under the IAA typically considers the first licensing phase of a nuclear facility (site preparation).
- However, applicants can choose to submit multiple phases to be considered within the integrated assessment (e.g., construction, operation).
- If the project is allowed to proceed and a licence is granted, the CNSC is the lifecycle regulator.
- Subsequent licensing processes will be managed by the CNSC under the NSCA.



# Integrated Review Panel

## WHAT

A panel of independent experts that prepares the Impact assessment report outlining conclusions and recommendations regarding a proposed project.

## WHEN

The Review Panel commences its assessment work at the beginning of Phase 3 - Impact Assessment phase.

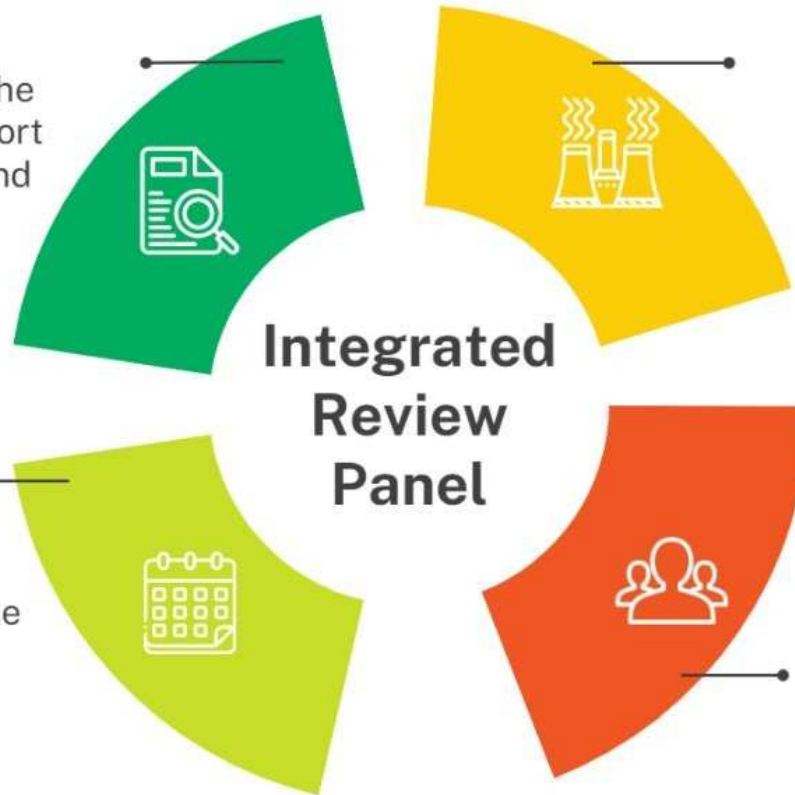
## WHY

Projects that include activities regulated under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* must be referred to an integrated review panel.

## WHO

Review Panel candidates can be put forward for consideration. Panel members must:

- Have relevant knowledge and expertise.
- Be free from bias and conflicts of interest.
- At least one member must be from the CNSC roster.



# The Integrated Assessment Process



\* The CNSC is involved throughout the integrated assessment process and, in the post-decision phase, is responsible for licensing and regulatory oversight.

**IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
AGENCY OF CANADA**

1-866-582-1884

information@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

**THE KEY PARTICIPANTS IN THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM ARE**



Canada

# Timelines and Key Efficiencies

Phase	Legislated Timeline (4.5yrs)	Target Timeline (3yrs)	Key Efficiencies
<b>Pre-Planning</b>	N/A	N/A	Early engagement / relationship building
<b>Planning</b>	180 days	170-180 days – <i>government led</i>	Leverage existing studies, and focus on key issues
<b>Impact Statement</b>	Up to 3 years	355 days to develop impact statement – <i>proponent led</i>  180-270 days for review and approval – <i>government led</i>	Apply risk-based approach  Frequent engagement to provide guidance and identify and resolve issues
<b>Impact Assessment</b>	300 days (max 600 days)	300 days – <i>government led</i>	Early appointment of the panel in the Impact Statement phase
<b>Decision Making</b>	90 days	90 days – <i>government led</i>	Two timely decisions using one assessment



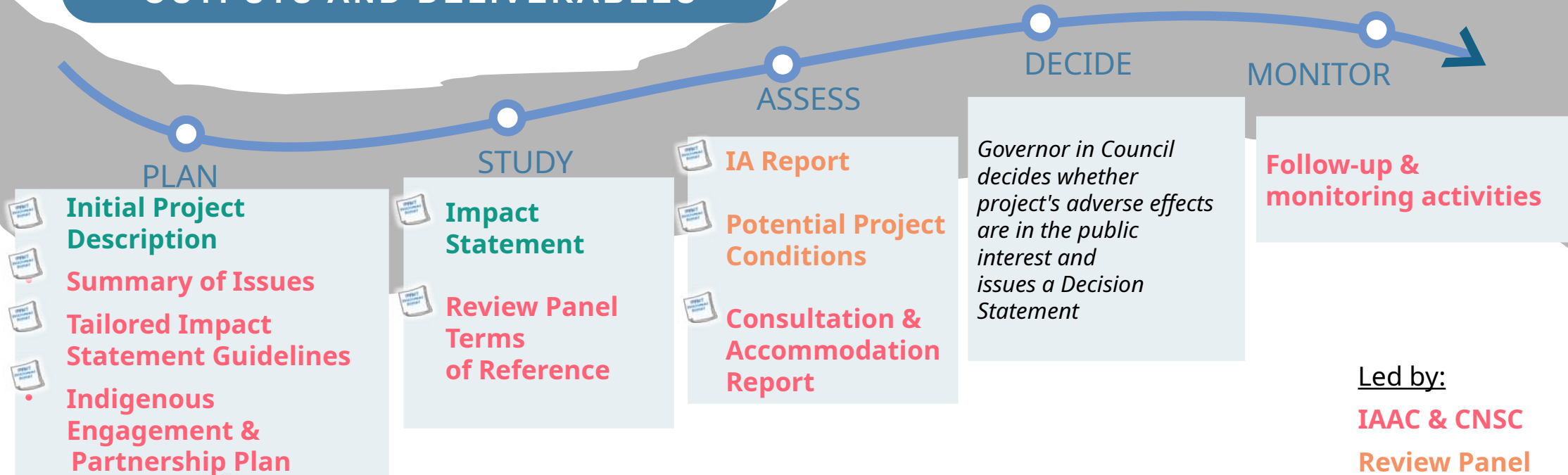


# Key Opportunities for Indigenous Participation

## INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION FUNDING

IAAC supports the meaningful participation of Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the integrated assessment process. Indigenous participation funds are available at the outset of the integrated assessment and are designed to support Indigenous involvement in the development of key outputs and deliverables.

## OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES



Led by:

IAAC & CNSC

Review Panel

Project Proponent



IAAC and CNSC will carry out integrated assessments in a manner that emphasizes the need to seek free, prior and informed consent.



# Finding Efficiencies

KEY ROLES TO INCREASE EFFICIENCIES IN THE INTEGRATED PROCESS



# Factors to achieve an efficient process: IAAC, CNSC and Federal Authorities



# Factors to achieve an efficient process: Nuclear Proponents



**Clear** descriptions of projects early in the process

**Timely, quality submissions** with the required information and studies

EARLY  
PREPARATION

**Early** identification and **collaboration** with potentially impacted **Indigenous groups** to build strong relationships, and identify/**resolve issues**

**Community support** to proceed by addressing concerns early



# Factors to achieve an efficient process: Indigenous Nations & Communities



# Key Takeaways

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# Key Takeaways

- The CNSC and IAAC are prepared to implement the integrated assessment process for designated nuclear projects
- Effort is required by all parties to ensure an efficient assessment
- Proponents can support a 3-year target timeline by:
  - Conducting meaningful Indigenous consultation
  - Identifying and resolving issues early on
  - Providing timely, quality submissions

# Thank you

QUESTIONS?

