
Background

CANADA–BC AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COOPERATION

This new agreement:

- Forms the basis for continued effective and efficient cooperation where federal and provincial environmental assessment legislation applies to the same project.
- Preserves each government's authority and legislative requirements.
- Provides for effective consultation between parties to determine their environmental assessment responsibilities.
- Applies to projects where both governments must, by legislation, conduct an environmental assessment. It does not apply to environmental assessment processes established through land claim, treaty or Aboriginal self-government agreements.
- Provides guidelines to determine a "lead party" responsible for administration of each cooperative environmental assessment.
- Sets out the principles for carrying out a cooperative environmental assessment and describes the roles and responsibilities of the parties.
- Provides for the development of work plans to make the assessment process more timely and efficient.
- Describes procedures, where appropriate, for the establishment of joint review panels in the context of a cooperative environmental assessment.
- Establishes one contact in each jurisdiction to coordinate consultation, to resolve process and content issues, and to ensure parties meet established timelines.
- Allows each party to use information generated by a joint assessment to make their own decision about the process and to coordinate the timing of the announcement related to the proposed project.
- Provides for an ongoing review of the bilateral agreement's effectiveness, and a thorough evaluation within five years.