

September 27, 2016

Mr. Ryan Barry  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
29 Mitik Street  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0



**Subject: Technical Briefing of the Expert Panel**

Dear Mr. Barry:

On August 15, 2016, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change announced the establishment of an Expert Panel to conduct a review of federal environmental assessment processes. The Panel has been tasked with engaging Indigenous peoples, provinces and territories, key stakeholders and all Canadians to develop recommendations on ways to strengthen federal environmental assessment.

The Terms of Reference includes the requirement to consider how duplication can be avoided in a robust and thorough environmental assessment process. In addition to hearing from you on the matter of duplication, your perspective on environmental assessment best practices will help the independent Panel in developing recommendations to improve federal environmental assessment processes.

Therefore, on behalf of the Panel, I would like to invite you to participate in a one-day technical briefing session with the Panel, to be held in Ottawa from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on November 2, 2016. Location details and agenda will follow. The Panel would like to hear from you about your jurisdiction's environmental assessment process and ways to strengthen and improve inter-governmental harmonization for environmental assessment and Indigenous engagement.

Each organization is asked to submit a presentation on its environmental assessment process to the Panel by October 26, 2016. The Panel requests that you use a case-study to indicate, in two slides, how your jurisdiction's environmental assessment process is applied. Where possible, please use an example of where a federal environmental assessment was also undertaken and identify points of cooperation or harmonization. Where needed, the Panel will ask questions of clarification.

The technical briefing will be a facilitated roundtable discussion on key questions that relate to federal and provincial relations and environmental assessment best practices.

To enable a frank and candid discussion, please come prepared to speak to the following questions:

- What should federal environmental assessment achieve and what do you view as your jurisdiction's role in the future of federal environmental assessment?
- What changes would you like to see in the current federal environmental assessment process?
- What are best practices and lessons learned in environmental assessment in your jurisdiction, and what are some of the unique aspects of your process that you want the panel to know about?
- Using the example of climate change, how and to what extent do broad policies or commitments fit into your organization's environmental assessment process?
- How does your environmental assessment process link to land-use planning within your jurisdiction?
- If regional based assessments were to be conducted by the federal government, what would you want your role to be?
- Where applicable, what are your experiences with co-management decision making approaches?

In addition, the panel would like to hear from you on the questions included in the Coordination section of the Themes for Discussion document available at [www.EAreview.ca](http://www.EAreview.ca):

- To what extent can the Government of Canada coordinate with other jurisdictions while maintaining process integrity in the conduct of federal environmental assessments?
- To what extent is the current approach to substitution and equivalency effective?
- Do you think duplication between the federal environmental assessment process and the environmental assessment process of other jurisdictions exists? If yes, what are ways in which duplication could most effectively be reduced while maintaining process integrity?

As part of the Panel's commitment to transparency, your written overview, as well as an unattributed summary of the outcomes from the session will be made available to the public on the Panel's website. We strongly encourage the in-person participation of environmental assessment practitioners in your jurisdiction. To enable a more dynamic dialogue session, participation by teleconference will not be available.

If no one from your organization is able to attend, there are additional opportunities for you to share your views. The Panel is conducting engagement events from mid-September to mid-December across the country. Various formats are being used for engagement, such as formal presentations to the Panel, discussion-based workshops and online submission tools. The public and Indigenous engagement plans as well as details on locations and dates are available at [www.EAreview.ca](http://www.EAreview.ca).

**EXPERT PANEL**  
Review of Environmental Assessment Processes

**COMITÉ D'EXPERTS**  
Examen des processus d'évaluation environnementale

Please confirm by October 19, 2016 who from within your organization will be attending the technical briefing session on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Your confirmation and submissions can be sent to Louise Levert at [Louise.Levert@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:Louise.Levert@ceaa-acee.gc.ca).

Should you have questions regarding the technical briefing session, I invite you to contact Kelly McGee, Executive Director, Environmental Assessment Review Secretariat, at [kelly.mcgee@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:kelly.mcgee@ceaa-acee.gc.ca).



Sincerely,

Ms. Johanne Gélinas  
Chair, Expert Panel  
Review of Environmental Assessment Processes

c.c.: