

Newsletter

Summer Edition



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VOLUME 3, SUMMER EDITION 2026

Welcome to our Readers

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is pleased to share the summer edition of our newsletter.

As the land comes alive under long daylight hours and renewed growth, we reflect on the strength, resilience, and connections that guide our work across the Mackenzie Valley.

This season brings continued progress on key assessments, strengthened community engagement, and a shared commitment to integrity, transparency, and collaboration. Grounded in Indigenous Knowledge and the principles of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, our work continues to honour the leadership of the Indigenous governments and organizations we partner with.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their knowledge and time to protecting our lands and waters. Your voices help shape a strong, sustainable future for the Mackenzie Valley.

Stay engaged and informed as we move through the summer season together.



Renewal of Appointments for Three-Year Terms

We are pleased to announce the renewal of appointments for a number of our dedicated members, effective immediately, for another term of three years.

These renewals reflect the continued commitment, expertise, and valuable contributions each of these members brings to our organization. Their leadership helped us move towards our goals and strengthen our community.

We appreciate their dedication and look forward to their keeping on making a difference in the years ahead.

Please join us in congratulating them on their renewed appointments.



JoAnne Deneron



David Krutko



Brenda Gauthier



Summer Spotlight

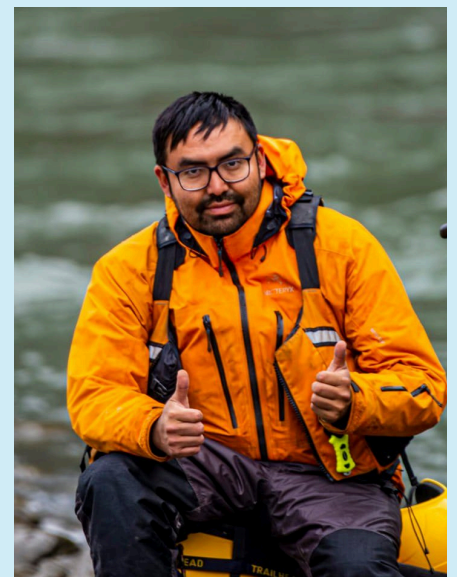
EA Team



Malorey Nirlungayuk is a Dehcho Dene descendant from Denendeh, Northwest Territories and an Inuit beneficiary from Nunavut's Kitikmeot region. Since 2022, she has worked as an Environmental Assessment Advisor. Malorey brings Northern and Indigenous perspectives to Environmental Assessment work.

Tas-Tsi Catholique is an Environmental Assessment Advisor and member of the Łútsël K'e Dene First Nation. He is involved in Environmental Assessment and Indigenous Engagement initiatives that supports the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge, land stewardship, and community perspectives in environmental decision-making across the Northwest Territories. Tas-Tsi has participated in workshops and collaborative processes focused on strengthening Indigenous participation in Environmental Assessments and resource management.

He is active on the Grays Bay Road Port EA and has done research on Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project, Mackenzie Valley Highway, and other various projects.





Clémentine Bouche is an Environmental Assessment Advisor. She previously worked with the Metlakatla First Nation on their cumulative effects program and with Aubin Consulting, undertaking land use planning for northern Indigenous communities in Alberta.

Simon Toogood is a Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor. With over 14 years of experience at the Review Board, Simon conducts Environmental Impact Assessments for major resource and infrastructure developments across the Mackenzie Valley.



Catherine Fairbairn is a Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor. She has extensive experience in Environmental Assessment, regulatory review, and northern resource management, supporting projects and community engagement across the Mackenzie Valley. Catherine works closely with Indigenous governments, communities, and technical experts to help ensure environmental assessments consider both scientific evidence and Indigenous Knowledge in decision-making



Melissa Pink is a Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor. She has worked with the Board for one year and brings 15 years of experience in environmental assessment. In her role, she helps review projects, works with communities and developers, and makes sure potential impacts on the environment and people are carefully considered before decisions are made.

Alan Ehrlich is the Manager of Environmental Impact Assessment. He is also Former President of the International Association for Impact Assessment, the leading global professional organization for advancing the practice of impact assessment. Alan has 27 years of experience conducting and reviewing impact assessments, mostly in northern Canada. Many of the impact assessments he has led or managed were high profile, politically sensitive and focused on Indigenous issues.



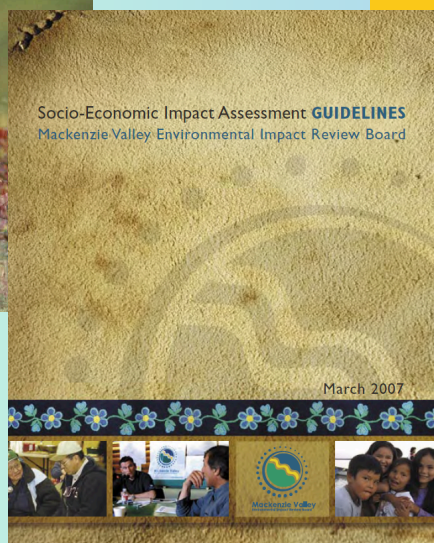
Guidelines

Clear guidance for transparent processes

The Review Board develops policies and guidance to run environmental assessments that are clear, consistent, and aligned with the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), land claim agreements, and best practices. Our approach to developing, updating and implementing guidance materials emphasizes:

- **Clarity and Accessibility:** Policies use plain language and clear structure so everyone understands EA processes and requirements.
- **Legal and Wise Practice Alignment:** Guidance reflects the spirit and letter of the law and emerging best practices.
- **Consistency and Accountability:** Transparent, predictable processes for fairness and efficiency.
- **Collaboration:** We engage with Indigenous governments, industry partners and the public to incorporate diverse perspectives.

Our guidelines cover a range of topics and are all designed to help the public, communities, developers and Governments understand and participate in EA processes.



Did you know?

The Review Board is updating two of its Guidelines: the *Guideline for Incorporating Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Impact Assessment* and the *Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guideline*. Please reach out to the Policy and Planning team (policy@reviewboard.ca) to learn more about this work and how you can get involved. We'd love to hear from you!

All of our guidance materials are available online:

<https://new.reviewboard.ca/en/guidelines-and-reference-material>

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT UPDATES

IMPERIAL NORMAN WELLS CLOSURE (EA2526-01)

Stage: Scoping

The environmental assessment for the closure of Imperial's Norman Wells facilities is moving forward with a two-part process with lots of engagement. The Review Board is first working with communities, Indigenous governments, regulators, and the developer to define a **shared vision for the future of the site**, including how the land and water should be used after closure. This early vision-setting stage will include workshops where participants **identify closure goals, principles, and priorities that reflect community values and traditional land use**.

At the same time, the Review Board is gathering information from other organizations about their roles and jurisdictions, **to better understand who will be responsible for what** during closure and long-term stewardship. The Review Board is planning more workshops with the EA parties in early fall, to develop more detailed closure objectives and cleanup options. These will help the Review Board ensure that the final closure plan is both **technically sound** and **aligned with community expectations for the long-term health, safety, and use** of the Norman Wells area.

MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY (EA1213-02)

Stage: Analysis

The assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway between Wrigley and Norman Wells is nearing the end of the analysis phase. The GNWT submitted the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR), with the GNWT's impact predictions, in late 2023. Since then, the Review Board has held several engagement and review activities:

- early project meetings in Fort Simpson, Wrigley, Norman Wells, Tulita, and Délı̄ne in early 2024
- three rounds of questions through the Online Review System (early 2024, mid-2024, and early 2025)
- community sessions in Norman Wells, Tulita, and Délı̄ne in fall 2024, and in Fort Good Hope in spring 2025
- a technical session with review parties in Yellowknife in November 2024

In October 2025, the GNWT requested a 10-month extension to allow for further work with Pehdzeh Ki First Nation on the highway route. PKFN and the GNWT have now agreed on a revised route.

The GNWT is preparing an addition to the DAR that reflects the new route and includes information gathered during the analysis phase. MVEIRB expects the DAR addendum in mid-2026, based on GNWT's October 2025 extension request.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT UPDATES

LINE 490 REPLACEMENT (EA2425-01)

The EA was cancelled at Imperial's request.

NORMAN WELLS OPERATIONS (EA2425-02)

The EA was cancelled at Imperial's request.

PINE POINT MINE (EA2021-01)

Stage: Analysis

The developer is preparing a Developer's Assessment Report.

HOWARD'S PASS ROAD UPGRADE (EA1516-01)

Stage: Paused

No new updates.

TRANSBOUNDARY UPDATE

GRAY'S BAY ROAD AND PORT PROJECT

West Kitikmeot Resources has submitted its Impact Assessment and parties can now submit questions to the Nunavut Impact Review Board about any missing information.

REGIONAL DATABASE AND MAJOR PROJECT REVIEW TOOL

Mackenzie Valley
Review Board



Information for Stronger Decisions Across the North

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) is pleased to showcase new tools that improve access to regional information, support cumulative effects understanding and strengthen decision-making in the Northwest Territories and beyond.



WHAT YOU'LL SEE



Regional Database

A centralized platform that brings together environmental, socio-economic, geoscience, and monitoring information for the Slave Geological Province.



Major Project Review Tool

An interactive mapping and analysis tool that helps users explore projects, infrastructure, and environmental features in context.



Cumulative Effects Insights

Visualize trends, compare projects and identify patterns that inform adaptive management and regional planning.



Support for Indigenous-led and Government Studies

Tools designed to support Indigenous knowledge, data sovereignty and collaborative decision making.



Strengthening EA, Regulation and Compliance

Integrates EA submission, licenses, permits, monitoring data and compliance information across the project lifecycle.

WHY IT MATTERS



Increasing development and infrastructure pressures in the North



Need for strong, open and timely information



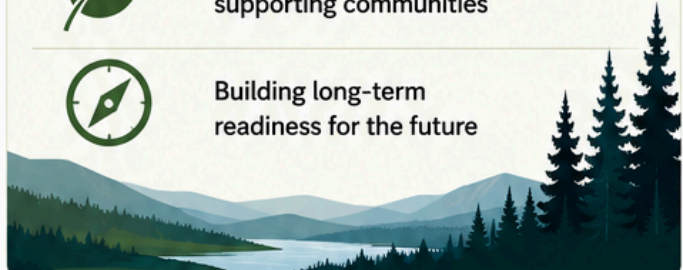
Better information leads to better decisions



Protecting the environment and supporting communities



Building long-term readiness for the future



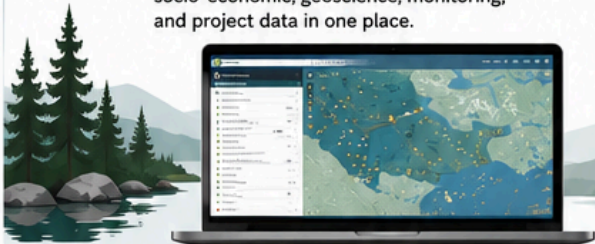
ABOUT THE TOOLS

The MVEIRB has developed two interactive, online tools to bring together environmental, socio-economic, geoscience and monitoring information for the Slave Geological Province and support evidence-based decision-making.



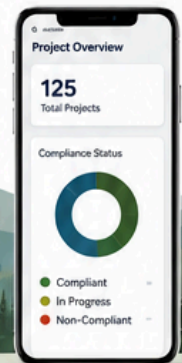
Regional Database – Discover, Explore and Understand

Explore a wide range of environmental, socio-economic, geoscience, monitoring, and project data in one place.



Major Project Review Tool – Analyze, Compare and Monitor

Track projects through their lifecycle, analyze predictive outcomes, monitor compliance and detect cumulative effects early.



EXPLORE THE
LIVE PLATFORM
sgp.mapr.ca



VISIT OUR
WEBSITE
new.reviewboard.ca



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ea@reviewboard.ca



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MVEIRB

Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact
Review Board

Supporting transparent, informed, and collaborative decision-making for the North.



Dene Laws

~Share what you have~

~Help each other~

~Love each other as much as possible~

~Be respectful of Elders and everything around you~

~Pass on the teachings~

~Be happy at all times~

~Sleep at night and work during the day~

~Be polite and don't argue with anyone~

~Young boys and girls should behave respectfully~

Thank you for staying connected with us.
For more updates, insights, and inspiration,
visit our website or follow us on social media.




@mveirb



Mackenzie Valley Review Board

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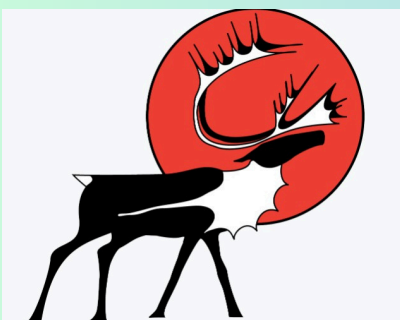
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