Mackenzie Valley Review Board

EA2021-01

June 19, 2024

Note to File

To all parties:

Re: Education and Outreach – North Slave Metis Alliance

On June 17th, 2024, Mackenzie Valley Review Board staff hosted an online meeting with the North Slave Metis Alliance. The North Slave Metis Alliance requested the meeting.

North Slave Metis Alliance participants:

Noah Johnson, Joe Gionet, Lorenzo Rose

Review Board staff participants:

Donna Schear, Chuck Hubert, Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Simon Toogood, Clementine Bouche

Discussion topics included:

- environmental assessment process steps
- how to participate in the Pine Point Mine EA
- summary of the Pine Point Mine Project Terms of Reference
- answering questions about EA generally and the EA for the Pine Point Mine specifically
- next steps

For more information or questions about engagement, please contact Donna Schear, Community Engagement Specialist at 867-766-7059, dschear@reviewboard.ca.

Attachments

1. EA Presentation, EA process steps Fort Resolution 2024
2. PPMP Terms of Reference Summary

Environmental assessment process for the Pine Point Mine Project

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

June 2024

Why we are here today

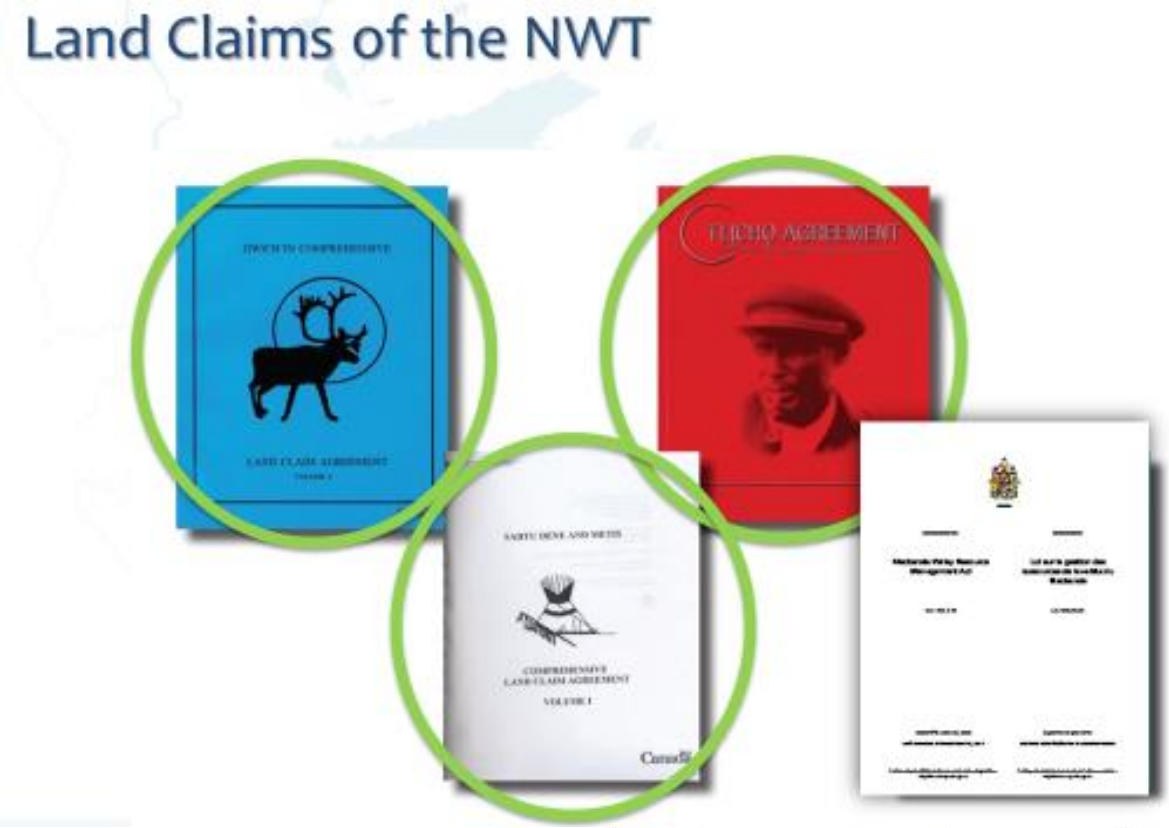
Mackenzie Valley Review Board

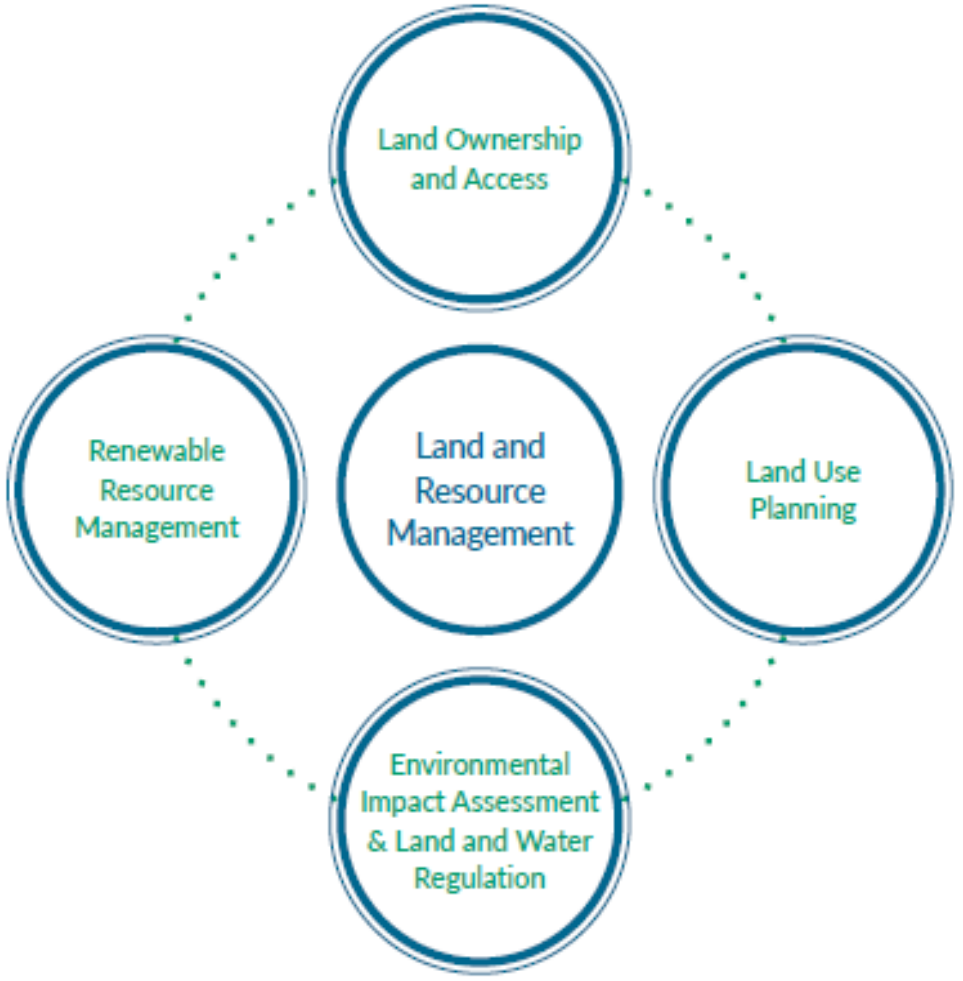
- Pine Point Mine Project
- It's important for the EA for you to know:
  - who we are
  - what happens in an EA
  - **how to have your say**
- This meeting is engagement before submission of the Developer's Assessment Report
- You can share your concerns and views in upcoming EA sessions
- **Questions about the Review Board and its process are welcome today**

Outline

- Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act boards
- the Review Board and environmental assessment
- steps in an environmental assessment
- how to take part

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





Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act Boards

Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board

Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

Sahtu Renewable Resources Water Board

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Sahtu Land and Water Board

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

Wek'èezhìı Land and Water Board

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

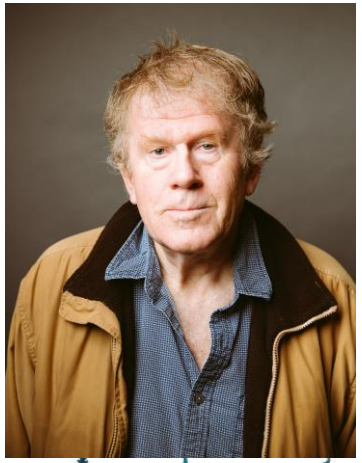
Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board

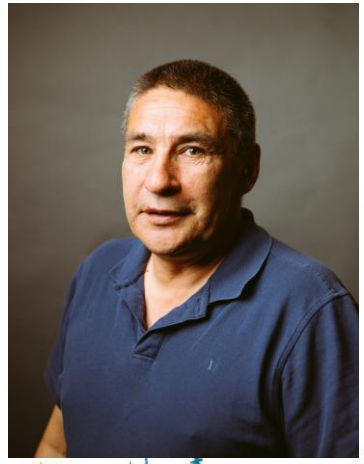
What is the Review Board?

Mackenzie Valley Review Board

- a **co-management** tribunal
- **independent**
- **fair**
- made of equal numbers of members nominated by:
  - **Indigenous** land claim organizations
  - **federal/territorial** governments

Review Board members





Environmental Assessment (EA) is:

→ a process for making decisions about a project

→ is the project likely to have a significant adverse impact on the land and the people?

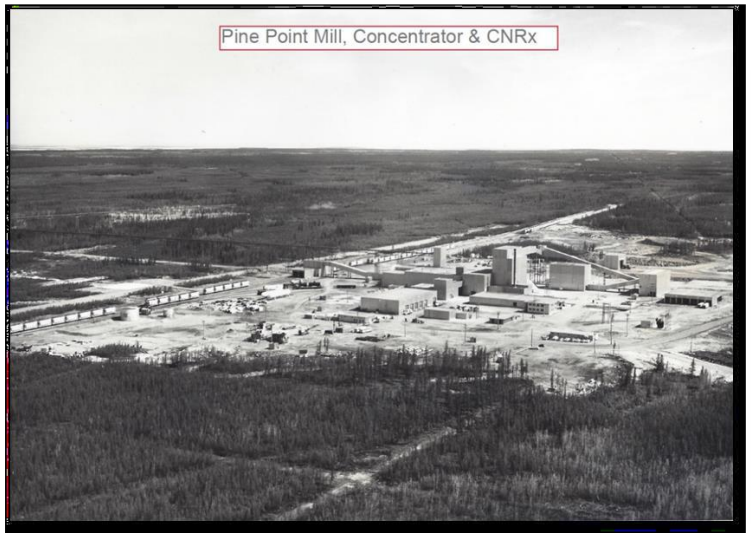
Tłı̨chǫ highway

Diavik mine

Why do environmental assessment?

- **communities get more say**
- **projects get better designed**
- unacceptable projects can be **rejected**

Before environmental assessments



Pine Point Mine
1964 - 1988

Mined for: lead, zinc

Colomac Mine
1990 – 1997

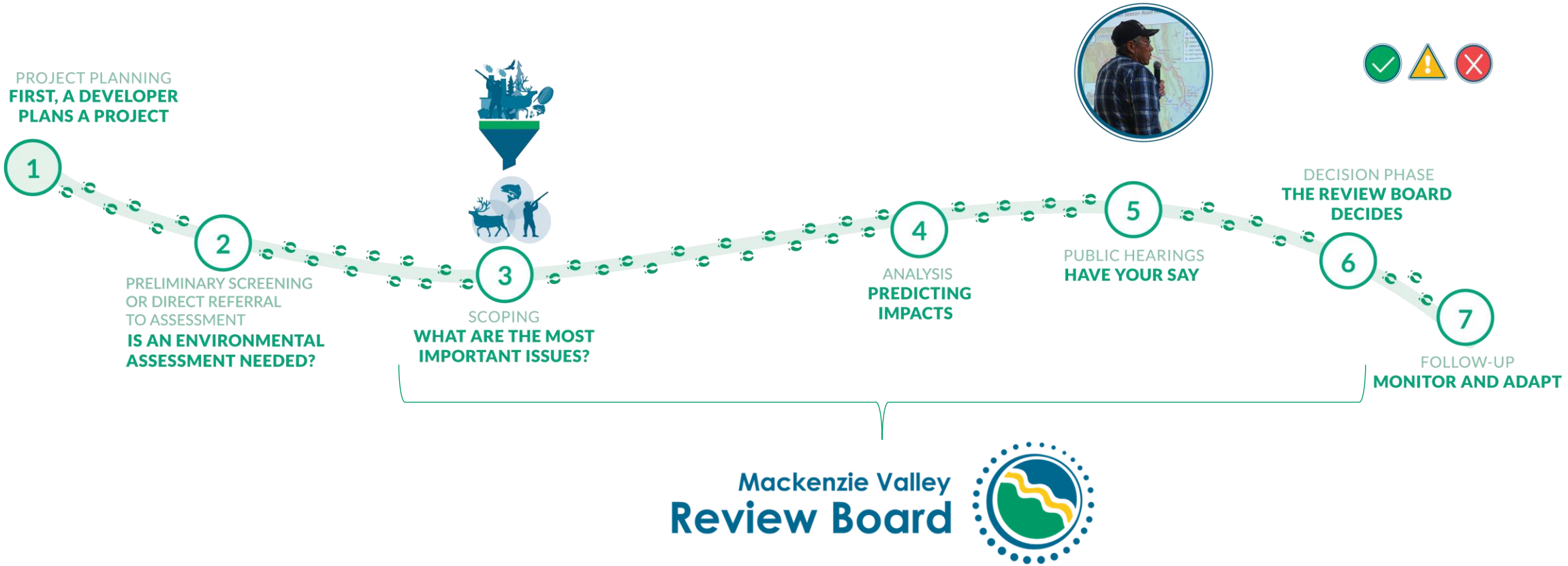
Mined for: gold

Giant Mine
1948 – 2004

Mined for: gold

Thinking before acting!

Steps of an environmental assessment



Mackenzie Valley
Review Board

Scoping

- **You participate:**
  - tell the Review Board **what you think,** in public meetings or in writing

- **Terms of Reference**:
  - list of subjects the developer needs to study and describe in detail

Developer's Assessment Report

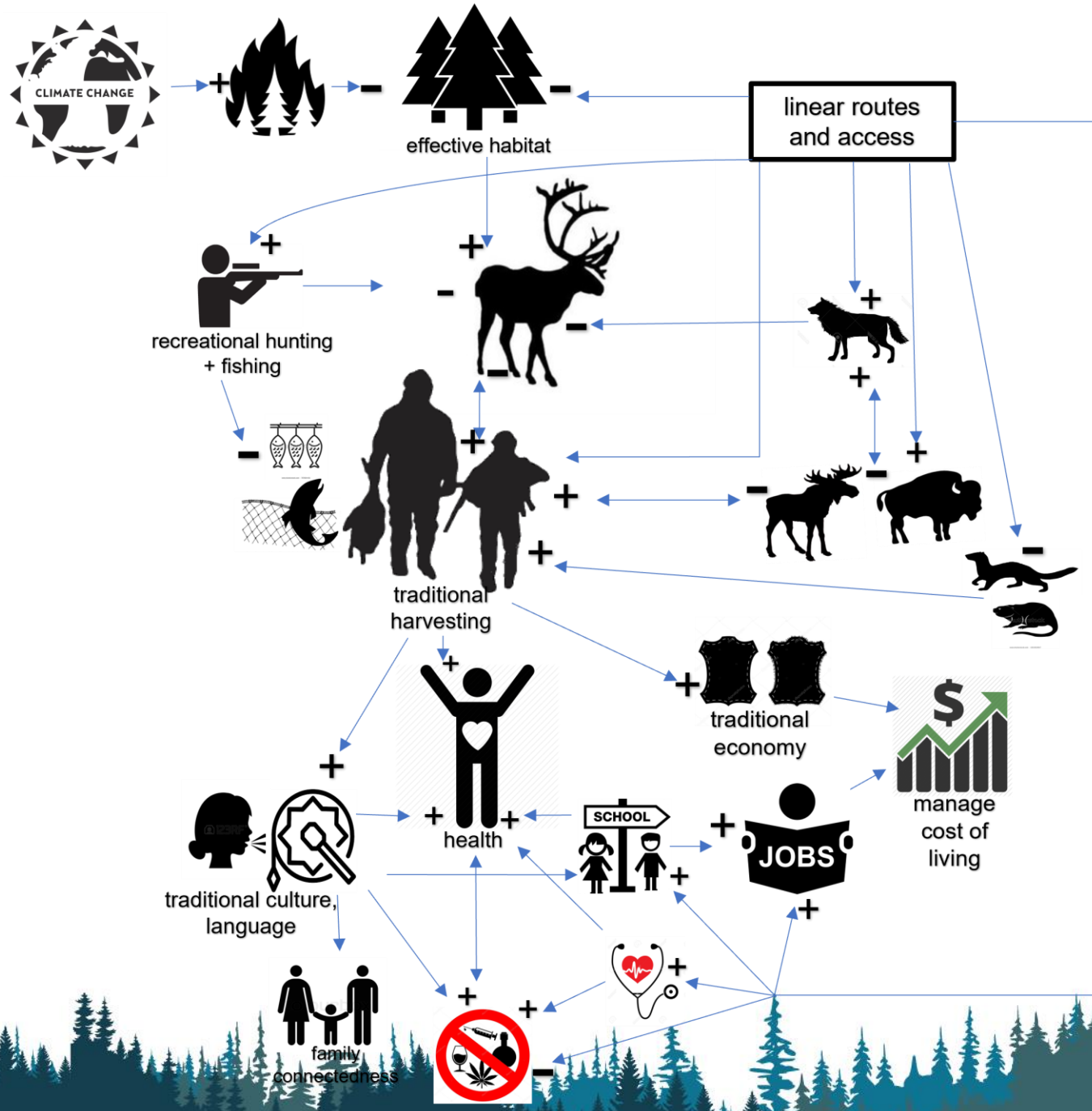
It describes:

- the proposed project
- the developer's impact predictions
- how the developer wants to reduce or avoid these impacts (mitigation)

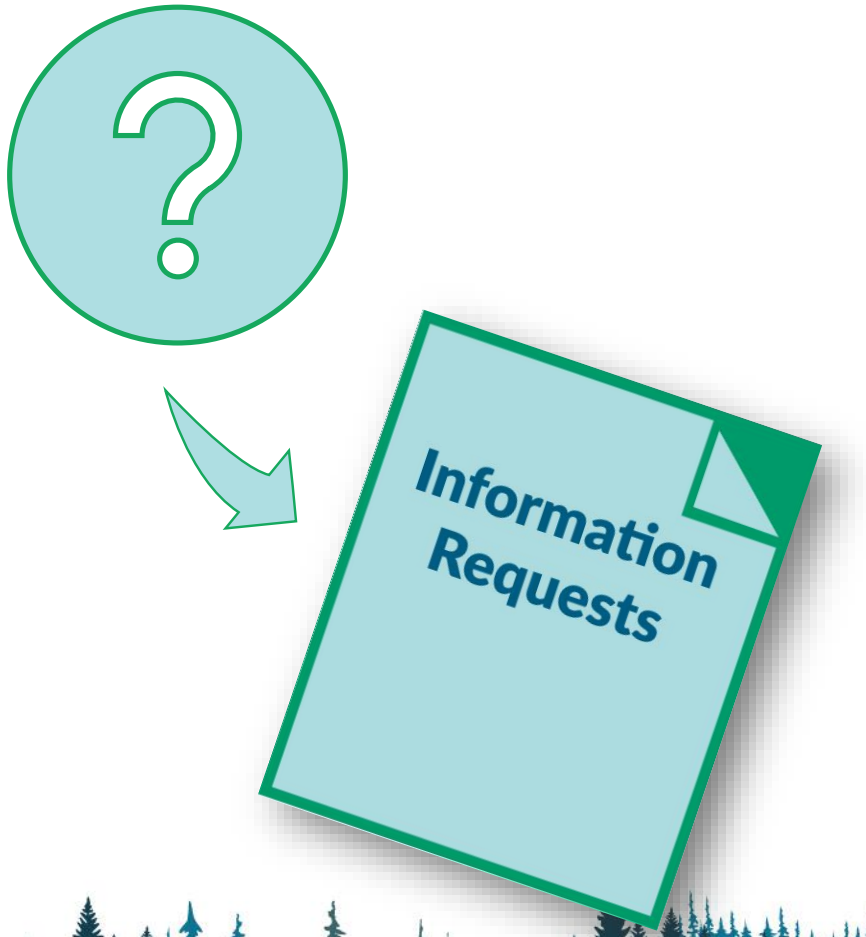
Analysis

1. **Conformity check**: is there all the information asked for?

2. **Analysis**: is the information good enough? How can we mitigate impacts?
    - Information requests
    - Community sessions
    - Technical sessions



Information Requests



questions to the developer or parties about project impacts and predictions

considered by the Review Board and parties

on the public record

Community sessions and technical sessions

Public Hearings

- resolve remaining issues
- speak directly to the Review Board members
- they consider all information collected through the EA
- before hearings: interventions
- after hearings: closing submissions

Tell the Board what you think !

Decision and recommendation: the Report of EA

- **Report of Environmental Assessment**

- recommendation to the Minister to:
  - **approve** the project
    - usually with additional **mitigation measures**
  - **reject** the project because impacts are too great

Minister Decision

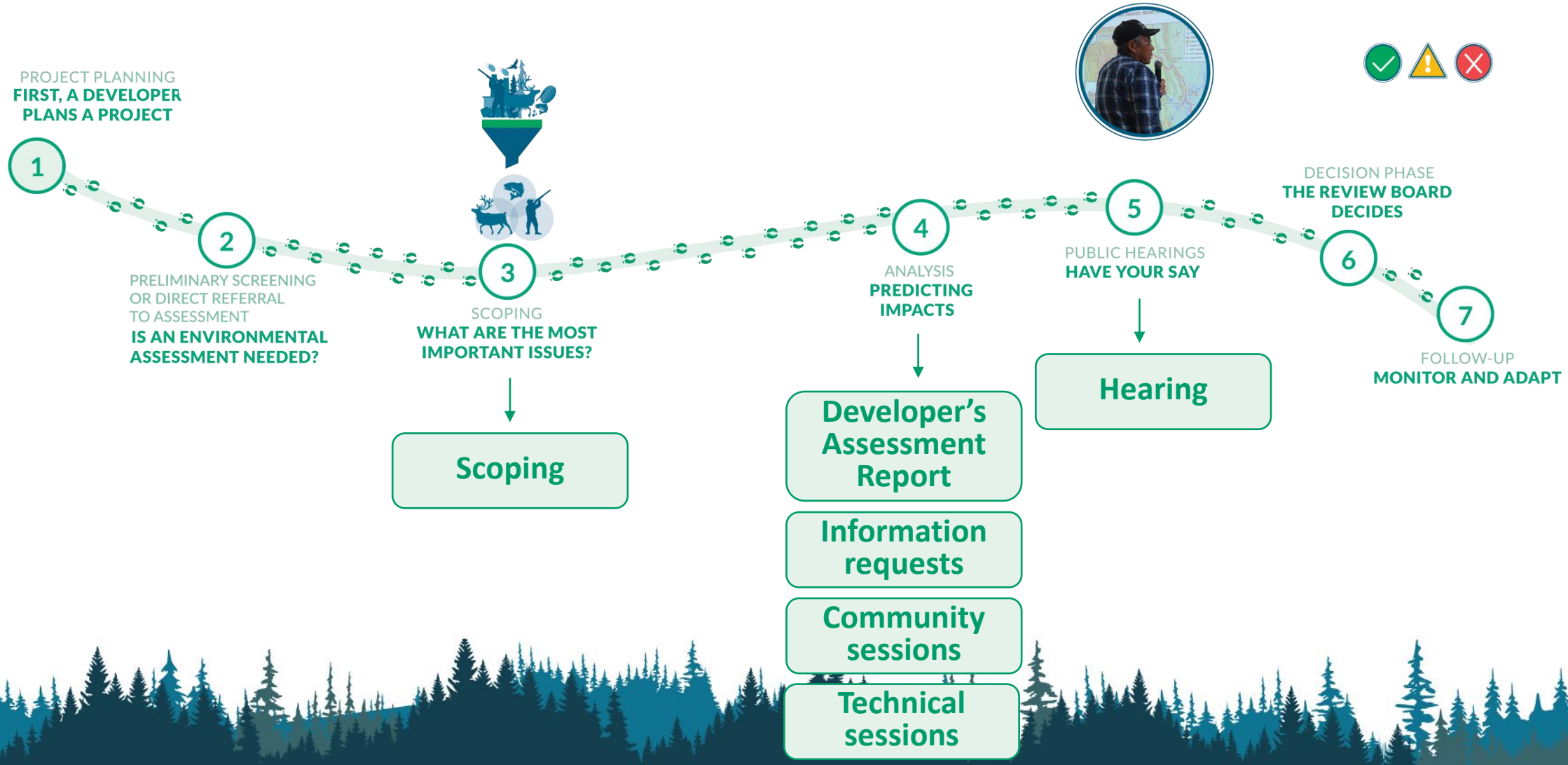
The Minister makes the **final decision** as to whether a project can go ahead or not

Accept	**the Board's recommendation**
Consult	**to modify (minor changes)**
Ask	**the Board to reconsider its recommendation**
Order	**a panel review of the proposed project**

How does the Review Board do environmental assessment?

- **look** at what is being proposed
- **talk** to people who could be affected
- **predict** and analyze what impacts could happen
- **identify** mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts
- **recommend** if project should go ahead, and under what conditions

How you can participate in EA steps



More information in the booklets

Booklet 1:
Overview of Environmental Impact Assessment

PROJECT PLANNING
FIRST, A DEVELOPER PLANS A PROJECT

1

2

PRELIMINARY SCREENING OR DIRECT REFERRAL TO ASSESSMENT
IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NEEDED?

3

SCOPING
WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES?

4

ANALYSIS
PREDICTING IMPACTS

5

PUBLIC HEARINGS
HAVE YOUR SAY

DECISION PHASE
THE REVIEW BOARD DECIDES

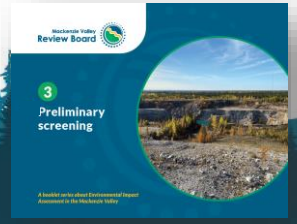
6

7

FOLLOW-UP
MONITOR AND ADAPT

Booklet 2:
Project Planning

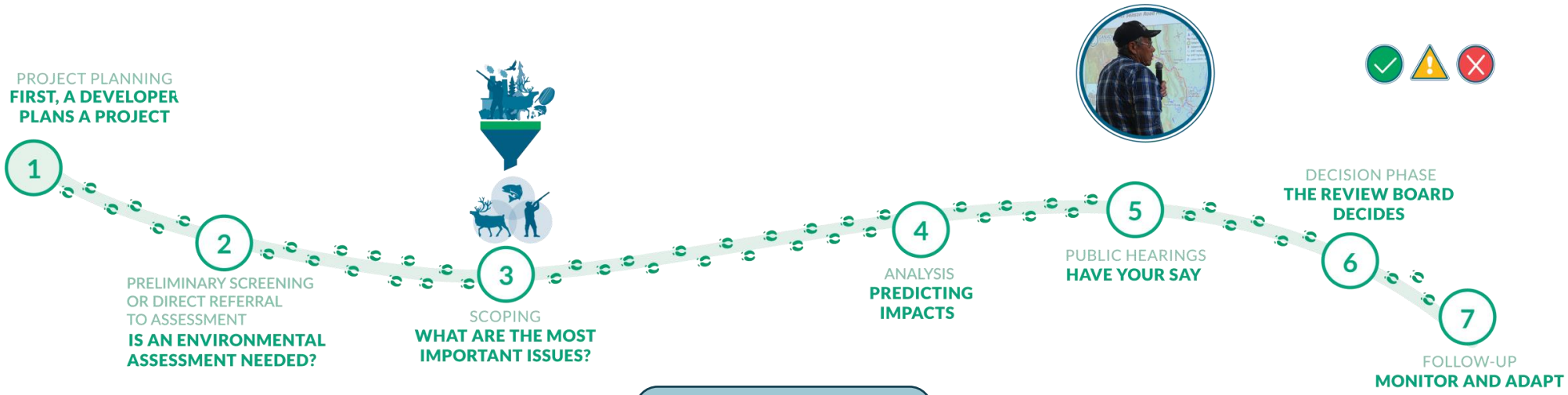
Booklet 3:
Preliminary Screening



Booklet 4:
Environmental Assessment

Booklet 5:
Follow-up

More information in the booklets



Booklet 6:
Participation

Many ways to take part in the EA

- **Developer's Assessment Report:** review the developer's information on the project
- **Information requests (ORS):** ask the developer about impacts and mitigation
- **Community sessions**: community members and Traditional knowledge experts discuss the impacts
- **Technical sessions:** technical experts get into the details of impacts
- **Public Hearings**: Tell Board members what you think

EA Process Steps
education and outreach opportunities

- EA Initiation Package submitted
- EA Referral and Reasons for decision
- EA start-up meeting
- Information session
- Participant funding notice

- Community scoping meetings
- Technical scoping meetings
- Draft Terms of Reference review
- Terms of Reference final

- Developer's Assessment Report
- Adequacy determination
- Information requests
- Technical sessions
- Community meetings

- Interventions
- Pre-hearing conference
- Community hearings
- Formal hearings
- Closing arguments

- Report of EA and Reasons for Decision
- Minister decision to accept or consult to modify
- Follow-up on Report of EA measures

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Terms of Reference summary
for the
Pine Point Mine Project

Outline

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1. What is the Pine Point Mine Project - Terms of Reference
2. Assessing impacts on the environment and people
3. Overall approach to assessing impacts
4. Assessing impacts in detail
5. Systems approach for the most important questions

What is a Terms of Reference?

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It is a document that describes **what information the Review Board needs** from the developer to **assess impacts of the Pine Point Mine Project** on:

- all aspects of the environment
- people and communities

How was the Terms of Reference developed?

- **community meetings – both on-line and in person**
- technical meetings online
- written comments on the draft Terms of Reference

It **reflects what the Review Board heard from communities** and other parties

Where is the Pine Point Mine Project?

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- open pit and underground mining
- about 50 zinc and lead deposits

- overlaps parts of old Pine Point Mine

- 10-15 year mine life
- 5 years to close and reclaim

Terms of Reference - document structure

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1. Introduction
2. Scope of development and scope of assessment
3. Overall approach to assessing impacts
4. Changes to air and land
   - impacts to biophysical environment
   - assessing impacts on people and communities
   - using a holistic lens and systems approach
5. General requirements

Appendices

- guidance documents, assessment methodology, baseline information

Approach to assessing impacts

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- describe construction, operation and closure of the mine project
- describe the existing environment and people in the region

- predict how project will interact with the environment
- assess impacts of project on environment and people

- describe mitigation methods to avoid or reduce impacts
- predict impacts that may still occur even after mitigation is implemented

- prepare monitoring plans that allow for mitigation to be adaptable based on mine operating experience

Terms of Reference - general requirements

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- assess impacts **holistically using systems approach**
- use and incorporate **Traditional Knowledge during all phases** of the project from project planning through construction, operations and closure
- cumulative effects including legacy of past mining
- consider sustainability and **lasting well-being to people** and communities
- include impacts the project on climate change and the risks of climate change on the project

Assessing impacts

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Changes to air and land

- air, noise and vibration, visual, terrain and soil

Impacts on biophysical environment

- groundwater, surface water, fish and aquatic life, vegetation
- caribou, moose, furbearers, other wildlife, birds, species at risk, whooping crane

Impacts on people and communities

- Indigenous land use, other land use, heritage resources, culture
- social and economic conditions, economy and employment, human health

Holistic lens and systems approach

- keeping water clean and safe, lasting well-being, sustainable caribou

Assessing the impacts of the project on the environment and people

in detail

Assessment methodology (engagement)

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Direct the developer to **involve potentially affected Indigenous Governments** in all aspects of preparing Developer's Assessment Report:

- scope of development
- baseline data collection
- describing project interactions with environment and people
- characterization of impacts
- mitigation measures
- significance of impacts after mitigation
- monitoring

Assessing impacts on air and land

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- **impacts to air from project** on environment and people including emissions, dust, odours, pollution, contaminants and describe ways to reduce them
- **impacts from noise and vibration** including sources, timing and duration on sensitive times for wildlife and people
- **Impacts from visual changes** like light pollution, dust plumes, landscape change
- **Impacts on terrain and soil** including pits used for tailings storage, waste rock, karst terrain, soil contaminated from past mining, and quality of soil for future reclamation

Impacts on biophysical environment

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- **Impacts on groundwater** from withdrawal to access pits and underground, re-injection of groundwater, and tailing placement in old pits
- **Impacts on surface water** from changes to water quality and flow from water management, and metal leaching from waste rock
- **Impacts on fish and aquatic life** including noise and vibration from blasting, impacts to spawning and traditional harvesting areas
- **Impacts on vegetation** including wildlife habitat and traditional use of plants
- **Impacts on wildlife** including sensory disturbance from noise, dust and light, contaminants, changes to movement, with emphasis on species at risk

Impacts on communities and people

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- **impacts on Indigenous land use** such as harvesting and gathering, and perception of changes on the land

- **impacts on other land uses** such as hunting, commercial fishing, tourism and recreation

- **impacts on heritage resources** including avoidance and mitigation of sites that may be discovered

- **Impacts on culture** such as important places, transfer of knowledge, language, place names, and sense of place on the landscape

Impacts on people and communities

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- **impacts on social and community conditions** including cost of living, uneven distribution of benefits, safety and capacity of facilities and services

- **impacts on economy and employment** including wages, contracts, capacity of local workers, barriers to employment, training and impacts on the traditional economy

- **impacts on human health** including impacts to physical and mental health from changes to air, noise, water, availability of country foods and medicine, income, and community services

Systems approach for the most important questions

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Keeping water safe and clean

- will water be clean and safe for people, fish and wildlife?
- will the project change how people traditionally use and experience the land?

Lasting well-being

- what are the long-term effects on people and communities?
- how does the project support lasting health and well-being of people?
- how does the project act cumulatively with other projects to affect social, health, cultural and economic conditions?

Sustainable caribou: protection and harvest

- will the project change caribou population and movement?
- will the project change harvesting opportunities and will caribou be safe to eat?

Workplan next steps – analytical phase

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- **Communities work with PPML to prepare Developer's Assessment Report**
- **Communities work with PPML on TK studies**
- Developer's Assessment Report submitted
- Adequacy Review by Review Board and responses from PPML
- Reasons for Decision on why EA can proceed to public review

- Information requests on DAR from parties/responses from PPML
- **Community meetings**
- Technical sessions
- Undertakings from PPML and others
- Information requests (if necessary)

Next steps – hearing phase, decision phase

- Parties submit interventions (technical reports)
- PPML submits responses
- Pre-hearing conference facilitated by Review Board staff
- Parties submit hearing presentations, Developer submits presentation

- Technical hearings
- **Community hearings**
- Hearing undertakings
- Closing arguments from parties and developer
- Report of EA and Reasons for Decision from Review Board
- Minister’s decision