EA1213-02

November 16, 2026

Note to File

To all parties:

RE: Mackenzie Valley Highway – Review Board staff participation in Fort Good Hope Technical Meeting

On November 14-15, 2026, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) hosted a technical meeting related to the Mackenzie Valley Highway project in Fort Good Hope. The meeting was organized at the request of Fort Good Hope governments and organizations.

At the request of community groups, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) staff (Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Catherine Fairbairn) participated in the meeting virtually on the afternoon of November 14th. Review Board staff delivered the attached presentation, which gives on overview of the Review Board's role, the environmental assessment (EA) process, and the Mackenzie Valley Highway EA steps so far.

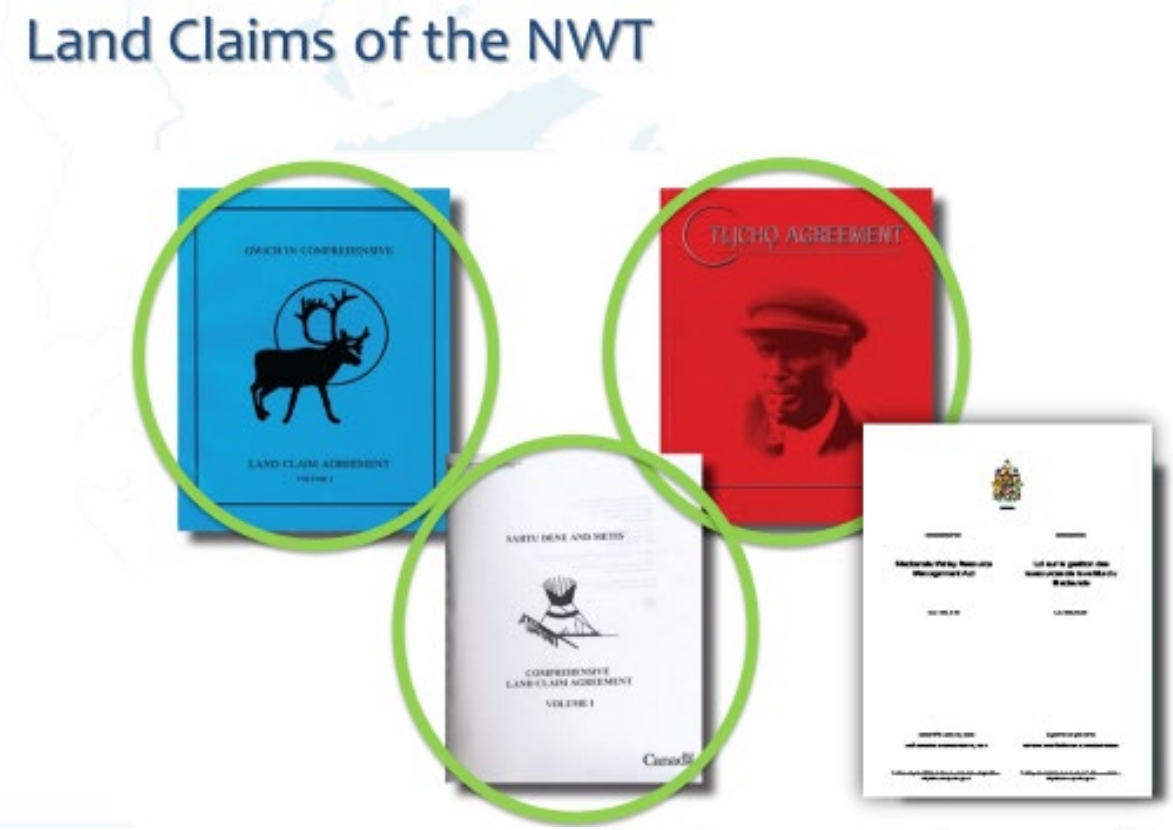
For questions or more information, please contact Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor Catherine Fairbairn at (867) 766-7054 or cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca and Environmental Assessment Advisor Clémentine Bouche at (867)766-7051 or cbouche@reviewboard.ca.

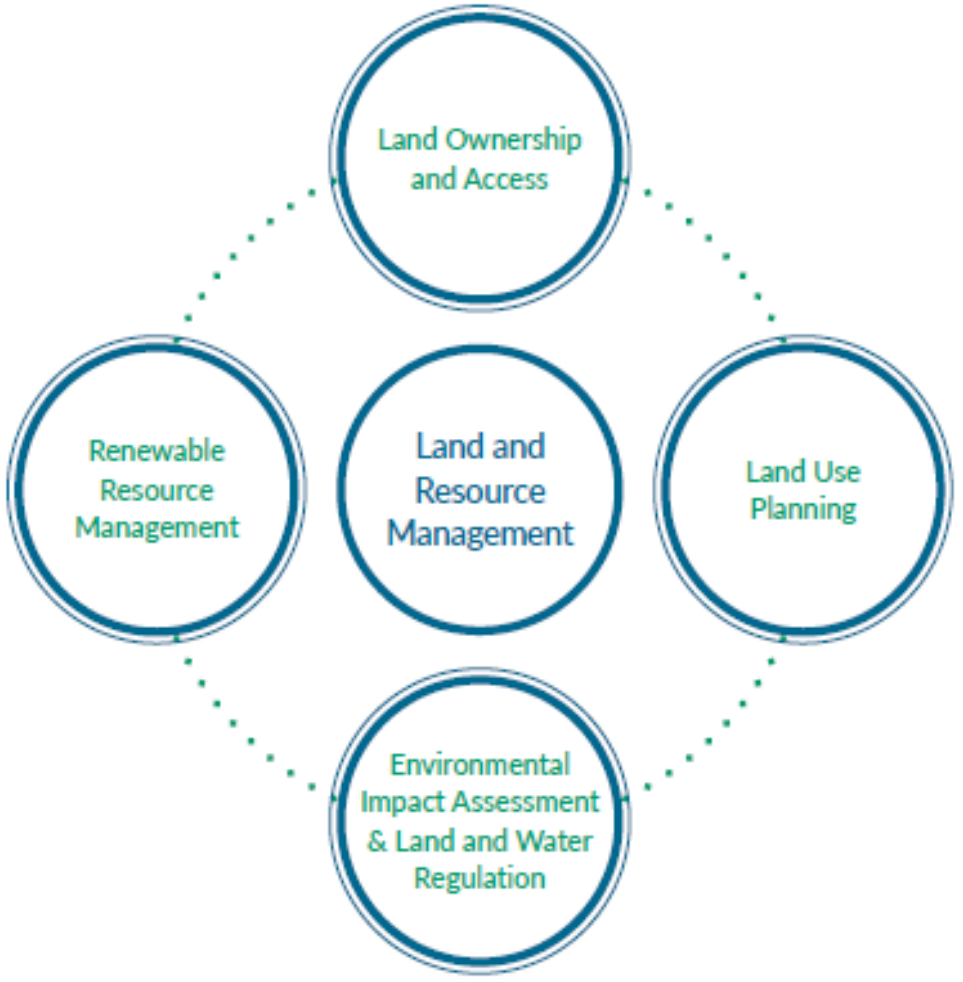
Mackenzie Valley Review Board

Mackenzie Valley Highway Environmental Assessment Fort Good Hope Meeting

November 14, 2026

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





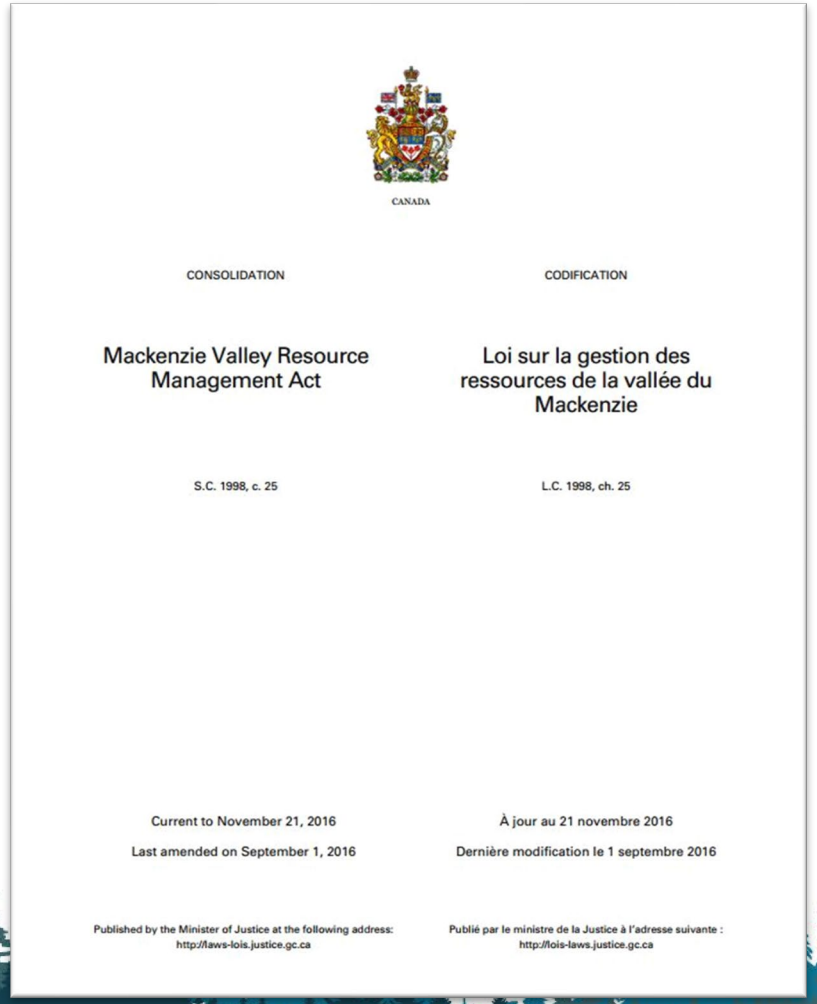
The Review Board follows the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

The Act requires us to:

a. **protect the environment** from the impacts of development

b. **protect the social, cultural and economic well-being** of Mackenzie Valley residents

c. **preserve the way of life of Aboriginal Peoples** (Section 35 rights)



CANADA

CONSOLIDATION

CODIFICATION

Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

Loi sur la gestion des ressources de la vallée du Mackenzie

S.C. 1998, c. 25

L.C. 1998, ch. 25

Current to November 21, 2016

Last amended on September 1, 2016

À jour au 21 novembre 2016

Dernière modification le 1 septembre 2016

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What is the Review Board?

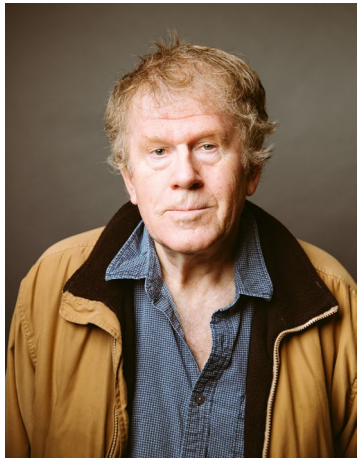
Mackenzie Valley Review Board

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

Review Board members





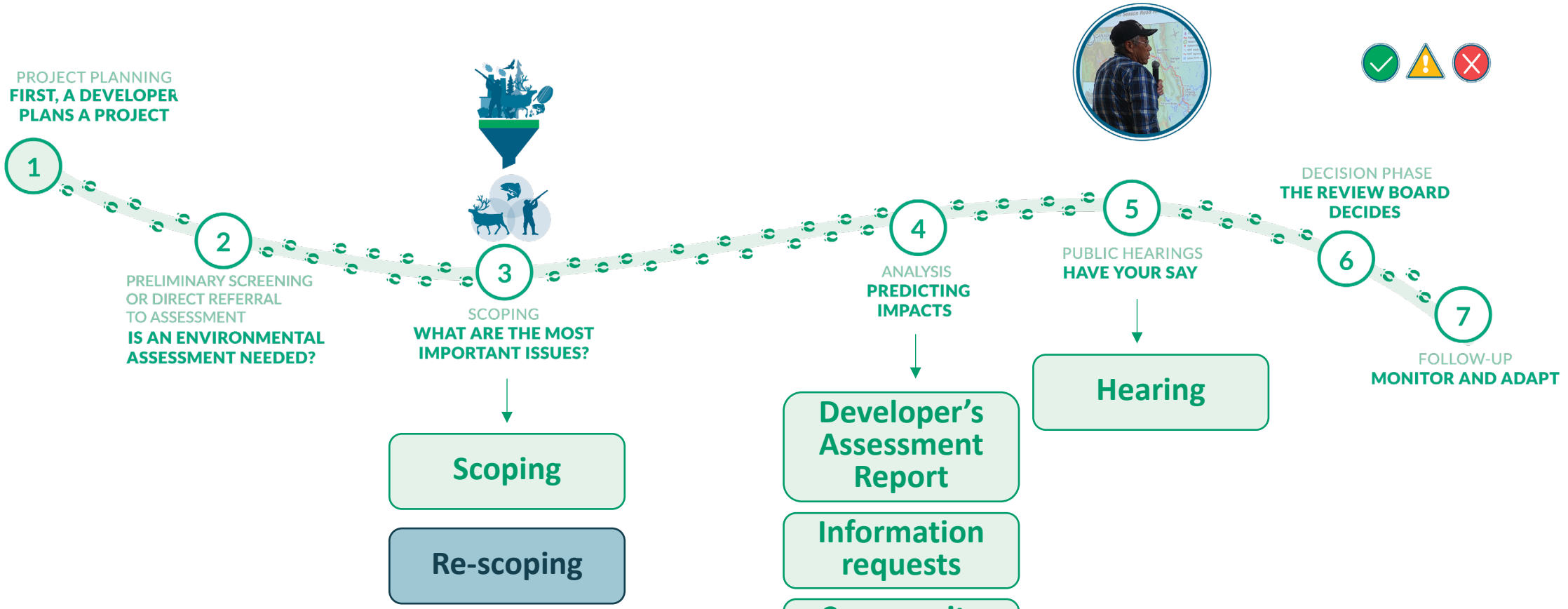



Canada

Government of Northwest Territories



Environmental assessment steps



What is (re-)scoping?
What is a Terms of Reference?

- **Scoping**: describes the boundaries of what the assessment will look at (geography, time, types of issues)

- **Terms of Reference:** document that summarizes what info the GNWT needs to do:
  - Provide a project description
  - Describe its impact predictions





MVH assessment history

2011-2012: Project Description Reports for Tulita, K'asho G'otine, Gwich'in, Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh

2013: start of EA – route from Wrigley to Inuvik.

2014: change of scope – route from Wrigley to Norman Wells.

2015: Terms of Reference – what should be assessed the EA

2023: GNWT provided the project description and impact predictions. Environmental assessment continued.

2026: Change of scope – route from Wrigley to Inuvik

TOR changes between 2013 to 2015

- Reduced scope of development
  - decreased from 818km (Wrigley to Inuvik) to 321km (Wrigley to Norman Wells)
  - no project activities or components north of Norman Wells and between Fort Good Hope and the Dempster
- Removed references to the Gwich'in Settlement Area and any requirements for:
  - plain language summary in Gwich'in
  - consideration of Gwich'in Land Use Plan

Current step

- Review Board re-scopes the EA to reflect the revised project description through
  - Engagement with communities
  - Written comments on the ORS

- All previous studies, submissions, and assessment work are still relevant and inform the EA



Timeline for re-scoping

- **September:** Community sessions
- **October:** Technical session
- **October 30:** parties' written comments on the TOR due
- **December 11:** GNWT's responses to comments due
- **December/January**: MVEIRB will finalize the revised TOR

What happens after re-scoping

2026: Review Board finalizes the **Terms of Reference**

2027: GNWT submits revised **Developer's Assessment Report**

2027: Review Board assesses impact

TBD: Review Board hosts a hearing



Benefits of assessing the full route

- Avoids “Project Splitting”
  - Dependence, Linkage, and Proximity
- Better understanding of the totality of impacts
- The Board is required to assess the proposed development, which is now the entire corridor
- Allows flexibility for future regulatory processes



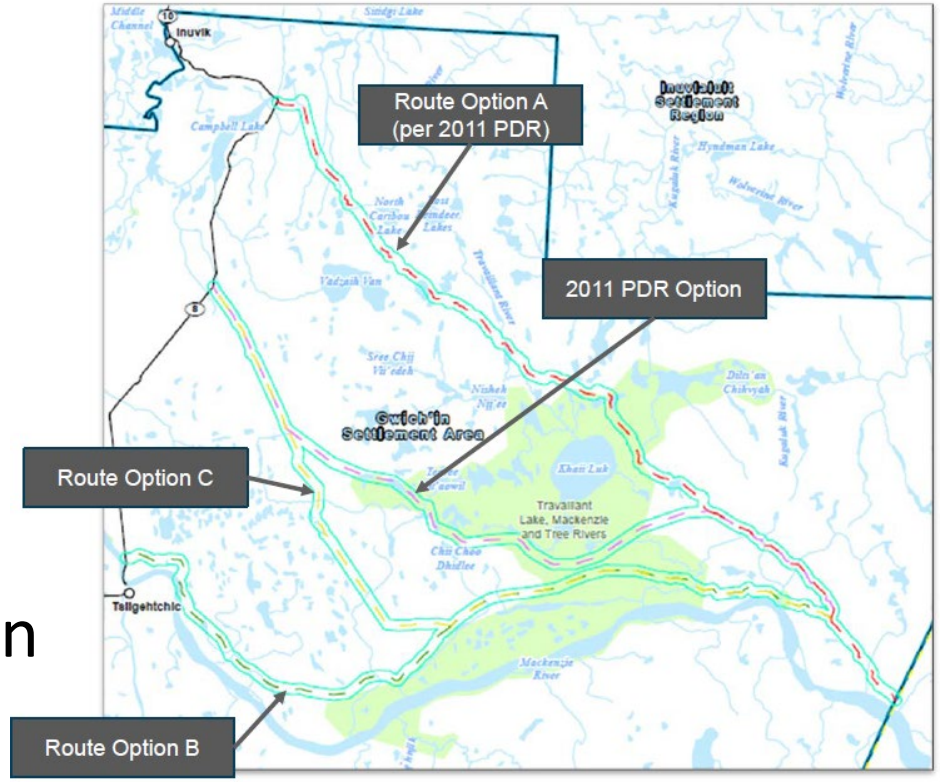
Benefits of assessing the full route

- More complete understanding of the impacts
- Reduced duplication of assessment work
- Consistent assessment of shared issues (e.g., drugs and alcohol)
- Faster overall EA timeline for the whole route



Approach to assessing the northern portion

- Assessed as a **corridor** rather than a final alignment
- Route location refined later within the corridor
- Existing information from past work and projects can support the assessment
- Monitoring, working groups, and mitigation can address any gaps in information



Mackenzie Valley Review Board

Questions?

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