



File: 00140-02/ARFN

Reference: 422897

August 20, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

Subject: Update on review of the Environmental Assessment Act

Dear ENGO Representative,

I am writing to provide a brief update on the next steps in the Environmental Assessment Office's (EAO) legislated review of the Environmental Assessment Act. The upcoming phase of the review will look at the participating Indigenous nation framework, which was an area of interest identified by many participants who provided input during our earlier engagement on the review, including First Nations, industry representatives, practitioners and EAO staff.

The EAO is currently working on a discussion paper on the participating Indigenous nation (PIN) framework, which we anticipate releasing in early September. This fall, the EAO will be consulting and cooperating with First Nations on the PIN framework to support potential legislative changes, with the goal of completing this work in time for introduction during the spring 2027 legislative session.

Preliminary planning is also underway for the Act review's remaining areas of focus, including process efficiency and effectiveness. Ahead of releasing a discussion paper on these topics in early 2027, we plan to connect with you to provide an update on the overall Act review progress before broad engagement begins and continues through spring 2028.

The EAO also continues to work through the feedback we received earlier this year on the preliminary framework for an expedited environmental assessment process. The report on what we learned and an update on next steps for that work will be shared in the coming weeks.

We appreciate the time, knowledge and perspectives that so many participants in the environmental assessment process have shared throughout this review, beginning with our early preparations in 2024 and our work together to amend dispute resolution and

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introduce issues resolution provisions, and to explore options to expedite assessments for designated priority projects.

Your input continues to inform our understanding of how the Environmental Assessment Act is being implemented and where improvements may be needed. The feedback shared with us to date has been very valuable, and we are grateful for what we have learned through our discussions and the submissions we have received.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to reconnecting with you later this year ahead of our next engagement phase. To get in touch in the meantime, please contact us at EAO.ActReview@gov.bc.ca.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Narwani'.

Tara Narwani
A/Executive Director, Strategic Policy
Environmental Assessment Office