



Prince George Office



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Agenda

Implications from the Building Canada Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment Process and First Nations Rights

Audience: Leadership, staff, and members from First Nations Governments in BC

Duration: Four (4) hours

Date: February 17, 2026 from 9 am – 1 pm (PST)

Objective:

Facilitate a dialogue between First Nations in BC and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and Major Projects Office (MPO) to discuss:

- The Building Canada Act
- The federal government's strategy for implementing the Two-Year Timeline for major project reviews within the Impact Assessment Process
- The proposed approach to Co-operation Agreements between Canada and provinces on environmental and impact assessment, including the agreement with British Columbia signed in 2019
- The implications of these changes for First Nations rights, priorities, and decision-making
- First Nations' expectations and government obligations regarding respect for the protection of Title, Rights and Treaty Rights during project assessment
- The T'silhqot'in Nation's experience with environmental assessments and the expectations they have outlined for project assessments including full partnerships with First Nations; Free, Prior, and Informed Consent; and respect for First Nations Title, Rights, governance, and decision-making processes

Presenters:

- T'silhqot'in Nation
- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)
- Major Projects Office (MPO)



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Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Lheidli T'enneh

Vancouver Office

Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the X'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)

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Draft Agenda:

9:00 - 9:15	Welcome, Open Remarks, Prayer and Context Setting
BLOCK 1	IAAC and MPO Presentations:
9:15 - 9:30	Presentation 1: Candace Anderson, Director of Indigenous Consultation, MPO Implementing the Building Canada Act - Identifying and Advancing Nationally Significant Major Projects
9:30 - 9:45	Presentation 2: Regina Wright, Director General of Operations-West, IAAC Re-engineering the Impact Assessment Process: A Two Year Approach
9:45 - 10:25	Q&A /Discussion
10:25-10:35	Break
BLOCK 2	Cooperation Agreements with Provinces - BC Case
10:35 - 10:50	Presentation 3: Tara Frezza, Director of Policy Integration, IAAC Approach to 'One Project One Review' in the BC context
10:50 - 11:05	Presentation 4: Chief Roger William, Xeni Gwet'in First Nation and Cynthia Fell, Resource Management Coordinator, T̓silhqot'in National Government Sharing Reflections on the T̓silhqot'in Nation's Experience
11:05 - 11:20	Presentation 5: Jesse McCormick, Pape Salter Teillet LLP Accelerating Project Assessments: Implications for First Nations
11:20 - 12:55 (Remaining Time)	Q&A /Discussion
12:55 - 1:00	Closing



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