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Review of Environmental Assessment Processes in Canada

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Canada Port Authority mandate and role

- Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is a Canada Port Authority under *Canada Marine Act*
- Manage federal lands and waters to facilitate Canada's trade
- Balance efficient port operations with environmental protection and regard for community
- Largest port in Canada
- Financially self-sufficient

Regulatory context:

Port authorities and environmental assessment

- *Canada Marine Act* (1998) and the Port Authorities Operations Regulations
- Port authorities are federal authorities and therefore CEAA 2012, Section 67 applies
- CEAA 2012 and the Regulations Designating Physical Activities created a list of designated projects for review by federal responsible authorities
- Duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Project and Environmental Review process

- Process applies to all proposed physical works and activities partially or wholly within federal port lands and waters
- Process enables port authority to consider and make a determination on the potential environmental and other effects of proposed projects before making any decision that would allow a project to proceed and, if so, under what conditions.
- Annual reporting to Parliament (CEAA sections 71 and 72)
- Over 200 environmental reviews annually

Project and Environmental Review process: Key features

- Four project review categories
 - Commensurate to scale and potential impacts of the project, each with prescribed steps and timeline including public, stakeholder and Aboriginal consultation where appropriate
- Significant web presence to increase transparency
- Online application guide and technical guidance documents
- Managed continuous improvement program

Environmental reviews: Opportunities for improvement

In general, the Act works well, however, there is opportunity for enhanced guidance, appropriate resourcing, and greater transparency.

1. Maintain current designated projects list
2. Reinstate reporting to CEA Registry for large, complex, high profile, non-designated projects
3. Provide for greater support from other federal authorities when requested for non-designated project reviews
4. Call for new regional interagency, multi-stakeholder collaborative forums

Environmental reviews: Opportunities for improvement (continued)

5. Enhanced mechanisms for initiating, implementing and funding regional cumulative effects assessments under CEAA
6. Coordinated Crown consultation and proponent engagement
7. Enhanced requirements for monitoring, reporting and enforcement

Environmental reviews: Other opportunities

Aligned with the seven themes and as related to both designated and non-designated projects, our written submission includes detailed feedback on the following:

- Capacity
- Harmonization
- Science, facts and evidence
- Public interest decisions
- Best Available Technologies



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Thank you

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