

EA Review - A Practitioner's Perspective

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What EAs Achieve

- **Science-based, objective assessment**
- **To promote informed decision-making**
 - Proponents (understand mitigation options)
 - Regulators (evaluate public interest decisions)
 - Indigenous communities and the public (opportunities to contribute knowledge)



Practitioner's EA Approach

- **Stakeholder participation**
 - Effective EAs require input from all potentially affected parties, including Indigenous communities
- **Regardless of jurisdiction, our process remains the same**
 - Describe proposed activities
 - Evaluate potential environmental interactions
 - Identify potential issues
 - Select appropriate indicators
 - Assess predicted effects
 - Apply appropriate mitigation
 - Determine residual effects



CEAA vs Alberta EAs - Process

- **Timelines and Expectations Inconsistent**
 - AB EA determination based on 3-5 pages
 - CEAA EA determination based on 100-200 pages
 - AB public feedback after EA determination
 - CEAA public feedback before EA determination
- **Timelines and Costs Affected**
 - Typical recommendation is to add 6-12 months and hundreds of thousands of dollars



Desired Outcomes

- **Effective EAs make better projects**
 - Incorporating stakeholder concerns and mitigation into project planning and design
- **One Project – One EA**
 - Agreement on decision-making authority provides certainty/efficiency for proponents and stakeholders

