

The Role of YESAB

YESAB's goal is to ensure the assessment process is the best possible arrangement for all interests.



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YESAB is the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, a relatively new Board in the Yukon. It was established in June 2004 under the auspices of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, which was given Parliamentary Royal Assent and came into force on May 13, 2003.

The Act sets out a process to assess the environmental and socio-economic effects of projects and other activities in the Yukon or that might affect the Yukon. This is a requirement of Chapter 12 - Development Assessment Process - of the Umbrella Final Agreement and of Yukon First Nations' Final Agreements. The Act was developed by a partnership of the federal government, territorial government, and the Council of Yukon First Nations.

The Board is an independent arms-length entity, made up of seven Board members, which is responsible for the implementation of the Act. The Board administers an assessment process that is carried out by the Designated Offices, the Executive Committee and Panels of the Board.

The Role of the Executive Committee of the Board

The Chair and two Board members make up the Executive Committee of the Board. The Executive Committee has a number of special administrative and assessment responsibilities under the Act, including:

- To conduct screenings
- To review plans and existing projects
- To establish Panels of the Board and to develop and publish the terms of reference for reviews of projects, existing projects and plans
- To negotiate agreements for joint Panel reviews
- To provide advice about audits and effects monitoring
- To carry out effects monitoring or a project audit when requested by a minister or first nation
- To conduct a review or carry out research when requested by a minister or first nation.



The Goals of YESAB

YESAB is committed to building an assessment process that works well for all Yukoners and all stakeholders. YESAB's goal is to ensure the new assessment process is the best possible arrangement for all interests. Our commitment is to be an

impartial, effective and efficient organization that provides assistance to all involved in the assessment process.

The Mandate and Responsibilities of YESAB

YESAB's mandate and responsibilities are set out in Section 5 of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*:

YESAB will:

- Provide a comprehensive, neutrally-conducted assessment process applicable in Yukon
- Require that, before projects are undertaken, their environmental and socio-economic effects are considered
- Protect and maintain environmental quality and heritage resources
- Protect and promote the well-being of Yukon Indian persons, their societies and Yukon residents generally, as well as the interests of other Canadians
- Ensure that projects are undertaken in accordance with principles that foster beneficial socio-economic change without undermining the ecological and social systems on which communities, their residents, and societies in general, depend
- Recognize and, to the extent practicable, enhance the traditional economy of Yukon Indian persons and their special relationship with the wilderness environment
- Guarantee opportunities for the participation of Yukon Indian persons and make use of their knowledge and experience in the assessment process
- Provide opportunities for public participation in the assessment process
- Ensure that the assessment process is conducted in a timely, efficient and effective manner that avoids duplication.
- Provide certainty to the extent practicable with respect to assessment procedures, including information requirements, time limits and costs to participants.



Sharing Information about Assessments

The Board must provide public access to records, including:

- Rules & bylaws
- District boundaries
- Reports of studies and research
- Standard mitigative measures
- Results of project audits and effects monitoring.

The Board must establish and maintain a Public Registry containing:

- All documents related to assessments
- List of projects, activities and plans
- Project location and stage of assessment
- Lists of authorizations, grants of interest in land and financial assistance.