

Making your Voice Count

A key part of assessments under YESAA is the guaranteed opportunity for individuals or groups to provide comments on projects being assessed. In order for those comments to be incorporated by assessors, it is very important that the content of the comments be structured in a meaningful and useable way.

How do I provide meaningful input towards an assessment?

The first step in providing meaningful input is to understand the role of YESAA in conducting assessments. YESAA assessments consider the environmental (i.e. land, air, water, fish, wildlife) and socio-economic (i.e. health and well-being of people) effects of proposed projects. In order for your comments to be useful to assessors, you will need to outline what you value relative to the environment and the health and well-being of people, and explain how these things may be affected by a proposed development.

Four steps to providing quality comments!

1. What do you value in the proposed project area?

Values may include specific wildlife species/populations, environmental elements (land, air, water), aesthetics, social/cultural values (trapping, way of life), etc. How do you use or interact with the area?

2. How might those values be affected or impacted by the proposed project, and why?

Explain how you think these values would be affected if the project goes ahead. How would this be different from the way it is now?

3. Do you have any suggestions for how these effects could be reduced or eliminated?

Include any measures you believe may lessen project effects, and why you think these measures would be successful.

4. Are your concerns based on your own experience, studies you are familiar with or information passed on to you from someone else?

This will help assessors consider your information and allow them to follow-up with questions, if necessary.

Make your comments count!
Visit www.yesab.ca/registry