



VISION:

Current and future generations benefit from the active management and protection of the natural resources within the Mackenzie Valley.

MISSION:

We regulate and manage the use of the land and water and deposit of waste in the Mackenzie Valley through fair, effective, inclusive, and transparent processes. Through the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, we enable “the conservation, development, and utilization of land and water resources in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit generally for all Canadians and in particular for residents of the Mackenzie Valley.”

MANDATE:

In exercising its powers, the board must consider the importance of conservation to the well-being and way of life of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada to whom section 35 of the *Constitution Act* (which provides constitutional protection to the aboriginal and treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples of Canada) applies and who use an area of the Mackenzie Valley. The Board must consider any traditional knowledge and scientific information that is made available to it in its decision-making process.



7th Floor - 4922- 48th Street
P.O. Box 2130, Yellowknife, NT
Phone: (867) 669-0506
Website: <https://mvlwb.com/>



SHARING RESPONSIBILITY
Working Together to Make
the Best Decisions for the
Land, Water and People



Integrated and Coordinated System of Land and Water Management in the Mackenzie Valley

ABOUT US

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) is a regulatory authority that originates from Part 4 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). The roles and responsibilities of the MVLWB include:

- Reviewing and making decisions on transboundary projects;
- Ensuring consistent application of the MVRMA up and down the Mackenzie Valley; and,
- Reviewing and making decisions on applications filed in the regions where land claims have not been settled (e.g. Southern NWT).

The Big Picture

The MVRMA provides for an integrated and coordinated system of land and water management in the Mackenzie Valley. The MVRMA was originally developed in the context of the first Dene/Métis land claim negotiations in the 1980s and has since grown out of subsequent regional land claim agreements and is designed to accommodate further agreements as they are negotiated. The process is unique in Canada and is dependent on the efforts of an integrated network of individual components. The four components of Land and Resources in the Mackenzie Valley encompass a resource management system including Ownership and Access to Land, Land Use Planning, Environmental Assessment/Land and Water Regulations and Permitting, and Wildlife and Renewable Resource Management. The system needs to be integrated, coordinated, and monitored, based on the principles of co-management. Communication between entities and parties is a cornerstone of the MVRMA and encourages constant feedback and improvement.

Function of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

- Ensure decisions are made in accordance with approved Land Use Plans
- Conduct Preliminary Screenings to determine if a project requires an Environmental Assessment
- Regulate the use of land and water and the deposit of waste

Engagement and Traditional Knowledge

Engagement is a key part of any application to the Board. Proponents are required to initiate dialogue and engagement planning with affected parties, particularly affected Aboriginal organizations and governments, in advance of an application and throughout the life of the project.

Proponent engagement should include:

- Explaining the project;
- Identifying concerns and potential environmental impacts (including any potential for impacts to Aboriginal and treaty rights);
- Addressing concerns raised; and
- Ensuring appropriate levels and types of engagement are carried out over the life of a project.

Engagement activities also allow for Traditional Knowledge to be incorporated early into a project for the benefit of the proponent and affected parties.

Traditional Knowledge provided to the Board will be considered when making decisions (e.g., preliminary screening, issuance of a water licence or land use permit, review of management plans).

Sharing responsibility -
Working together to make the
best decisions for the land,
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ONLINE REVIEW SYSTEM (ORS)

The ORS provides all parties with an **opportunity to participate** in the Boards’ public review process. You may use the ORS to review and/or comment on a new application, management plan, study or report. Co-management is the foundation of the northern regulatory system so it’s important that parties take the time to contribute their knowledge, perspectives, and expertise to the decision-making process. Anyone can provide input to an ongoing review. The ORS allows an individual to view reviewer comments and proponent responses in real time. The systematic and transparent method for submitting comments to the Board ensures all parties are kept informed with respect to resource management issues and decisions. The system requires individuals to include both a comment and a recommendation so that it’s clear what is being asked for and if the recommendation is to the Board or the proponent. The Boards appreciate your time and effort in contributing to more effective and efficient regulatory processes. MVLWB.com

KEY LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS

