



NEWS RELEASE

January 30, 2023

Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley release updated Engagement and Consultation Policy

The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley (Gwich'in, Sahtu, Wek'èezhii, and Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Boards) – collectively the LWBs – are pleased to announce the release of an updated [Engagement and Consultation Policy](#) (the Policy). The key changes to the Policy are as follows:

- Updates to further explain the collaborative system of land and water management in the Mackenzie Valley, and the roles that all parties play in it, as well as the goal of furthering reconciliation.
- More emphasis on the concept of relationship-building and collaboration, underscoring the importance of early and meaningful engagement to good relationships, which is key for well-planned projects and efficient regulatory processes.
- Further clarification surrounding the roles and responsibilities of the various parties: applicant, affected parties, Board, and the federal and territorial governments.
- Addition of information about considerations regarding Traditional Knowledge in project planning and Board processes.
- More explanation about capacity challenges and potential solutions to help address identified issues.
- Several new figures and tables to communicate the above concepts.

Background:

In August 2019, as part of early engagement efforts to inform proposed revisions to the Policy, the LWBs requested early input from all users of the Online Review System (ORS). Following this, one-to-one meetings were held from fall 2019 through to summer 2021, and a virtual workshop was held on June 9 and 10, 2021 (follow [this link](#) for the Workshop Summary Report). What was heard during the engagement sessions informed the proposed revisions to the Policy. During the early engagement phase, the LWBs also considered the potential to expand the Policy to include environmental assessment (EA) and environmental impact review (EIR) processes and issue the Policy jointly with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), however, the Policy has not been expanded to include EA and EIR.

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board



The LWBs distributed a draft Policy for public review on June 15, 2022 with a requested comment deadline of August 25, 2022 (later extended to September 8, 2022) via the LWBs' ORS. The ORS Item for Review for this document, including comments received, may be accessed [here](#). Other relevant materials related to this Policy update, including how the LWBs addressed reviewer comments, may be found [here](#).

The update to the *Engagement and Consultation Policy* was approved by the MVLWB on December 8, 2022 and may be accessed at <https://wlwb.ca/resources/policies-and-guidelines>. The LWBs wish to thank all parties who contributed to this Policy update.