



Canada Energy  
Regulator

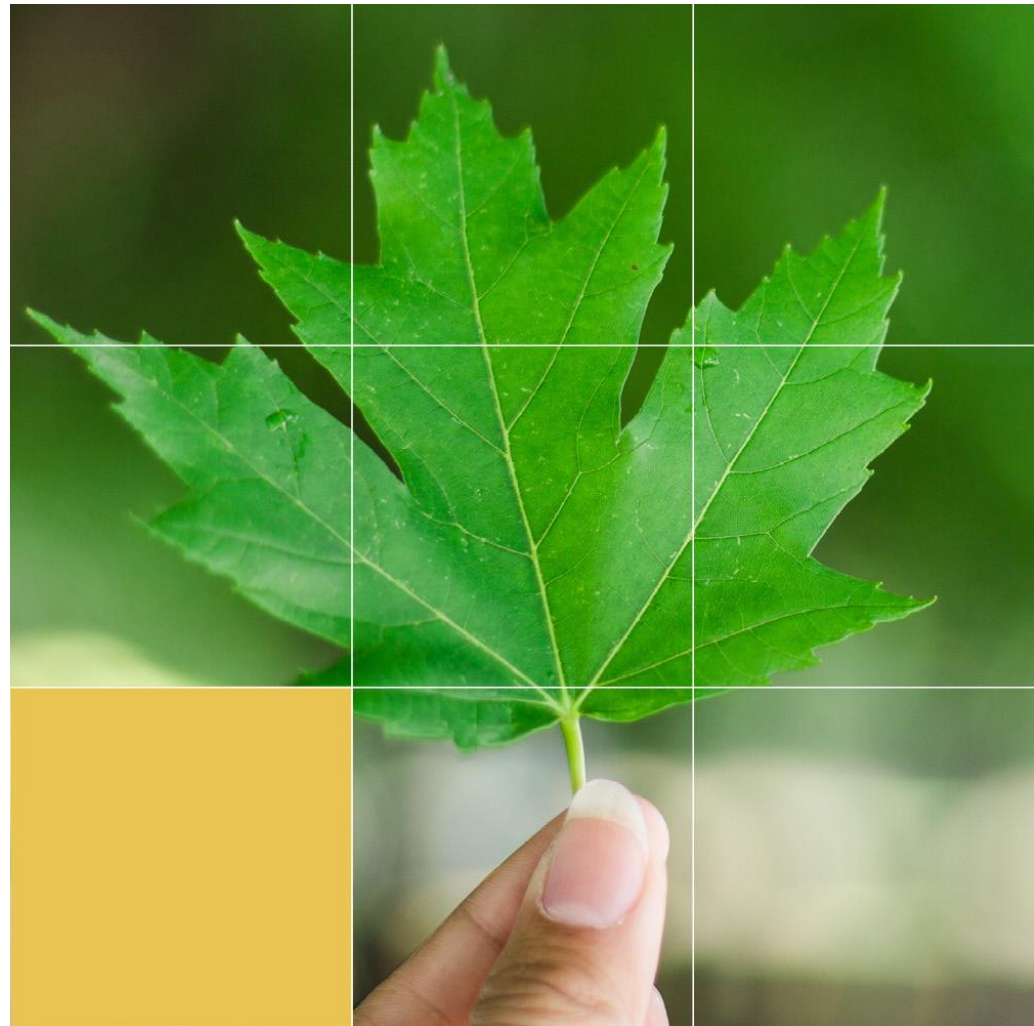
Régie de l'énergie  
du Canada

# Experiences from Canada: Assessing the Social Impacts of Linear Development Projects

**NZAIA 2021 Conference**

**21 April 2021**

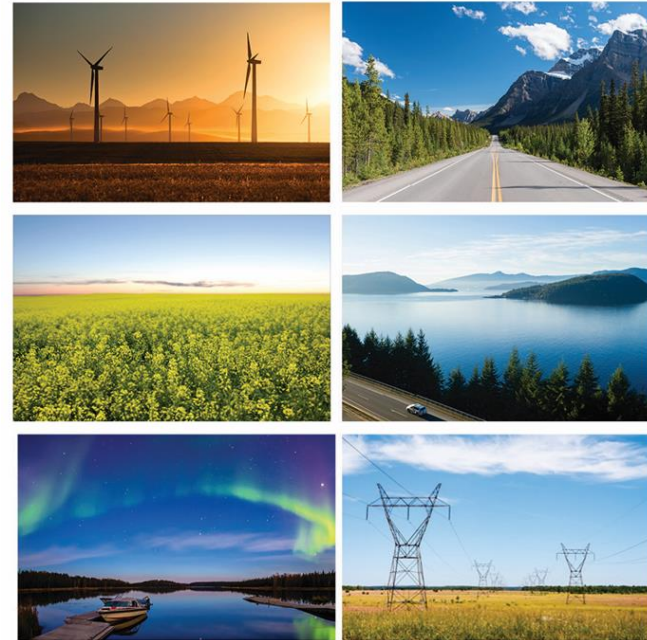
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# Presentation Overview

- Evolution of Impact Assessment in Canada
  - Shift from EA (environmental assessment) to IA (impact assessment)
- Implications of the evolution for Social Impact Assessment
- Final Thoughts





# Evolution of Canadian Federal IA

1980's : EARPGO

- *EA and Review Process Guidelines Order*

1995 : *Canadian EA Act*

- Amended 2003 & 2010 & 2012

2019 : *Impact Assessment Act*

*Social  
Attitudes  
&  
Societal  
Trends...*



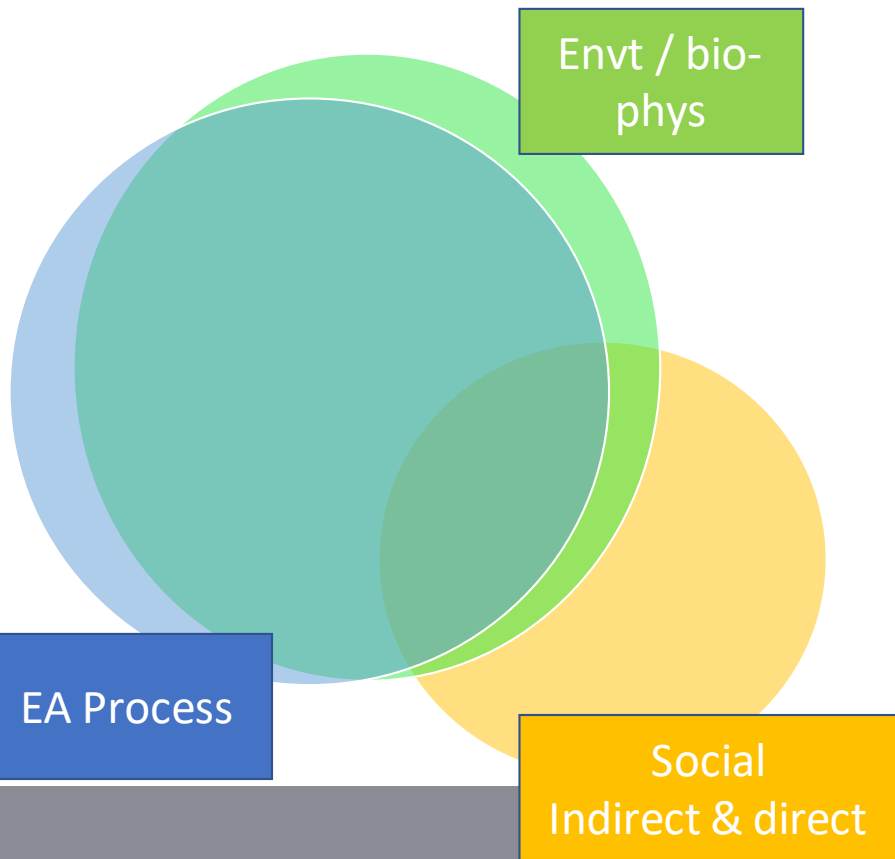
# 1990s EA: Definitions and Factors to be Considered

- “*assessment*” means, ... an assessment of the *environmental* effects ... conducted in accordance with this Act
- “*environment*” means the components of the Earth...
- (*adverse*) “*environmental effect*” means any change that the project may cause in the environment, *including any effect of any such change on* health and socio-economic conditions, ... on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons, etc...

	Substantive IA Factors – What to assess	Process methods – Sources: Who / what info to consider	Process methods – Evaluation: How to assess
Original CEAA (1995)	7 factors + any other matter relevant	1 factor + any other matter relevant	1 factor + any other matter relevant



# 1990s EA: Process, Bio-phys & Social





# IA 2019: Definitions and Factors to be Considered

- “*assessment*” means, ... an assessment of the ... ~~environmental~~ effects of the project... conducted in accordance with this Act
- “*environment*” means the components of the Earth... (unchanged)
- ~~(adverse) environmental~~ “*effect*” means ... changes to the environment or to health, social or economic conditions and the positive and negative consequences of these changes.

	Substantive IA Factors – What to assess	Process methods – Sources: Who / what info to consider	Process methods – Evaluation: How to assess
Original CEAA (1995)	7 factors + any other matter relevant	1 factor + any other matter relevant	1 factor + any other matter relevant
IAA (2019) additional factors	+ 4 new factors ~ 2 modified <b>- 1 (moved)</b>	+ 3 new factors: ~ 2 modified	+ 4 new factors (overlap)



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# 2020s IA: Process, Bio-phys & Social

1990s

Envt / bio-  
phys

EA Process

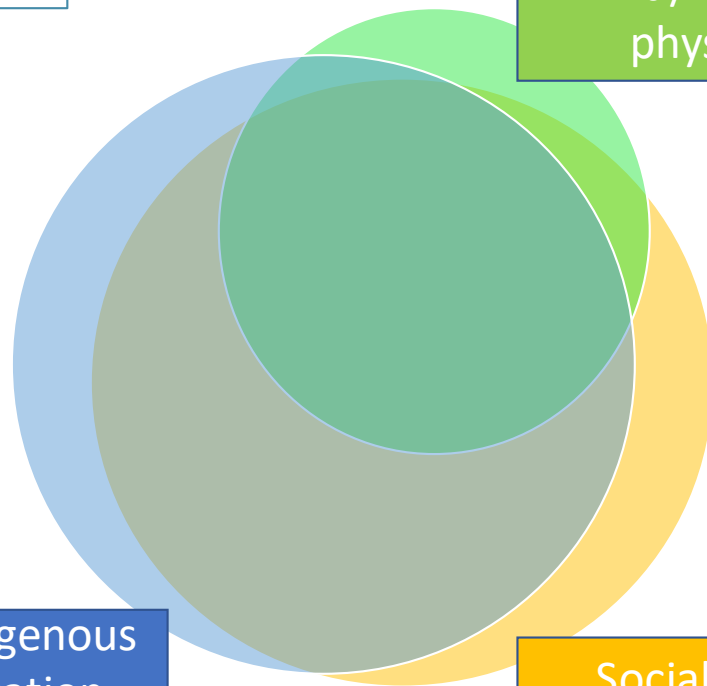
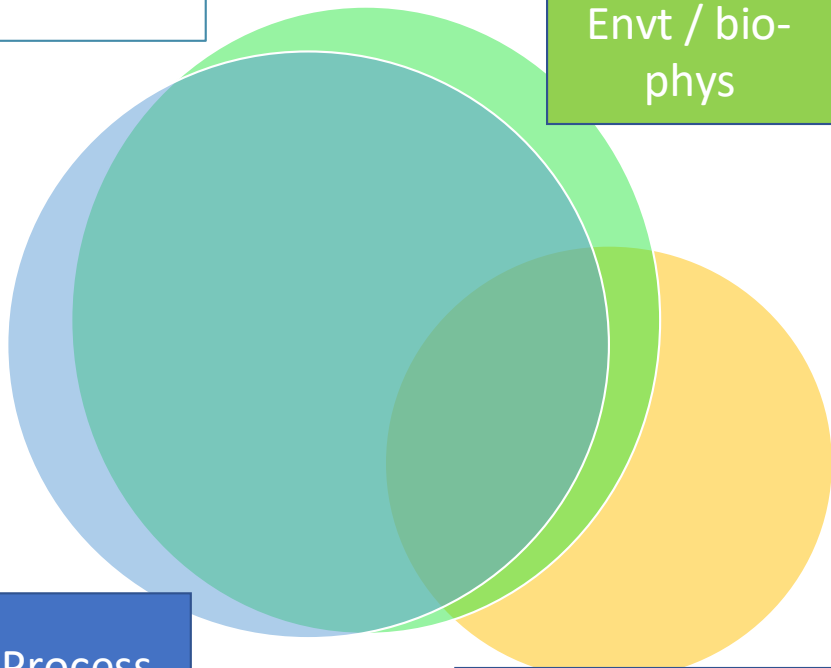
Social  
(indirect & direct)

2020s

Envt / bio-  
phys

IA & Indigenous  
consultation  
Processes

Social &  
Indigenous







# Canada Energy Regulator

## Core Responsibilities:

- Energy Adjudication
- Lifecycle Oversight
- Energy Information
- Engagement



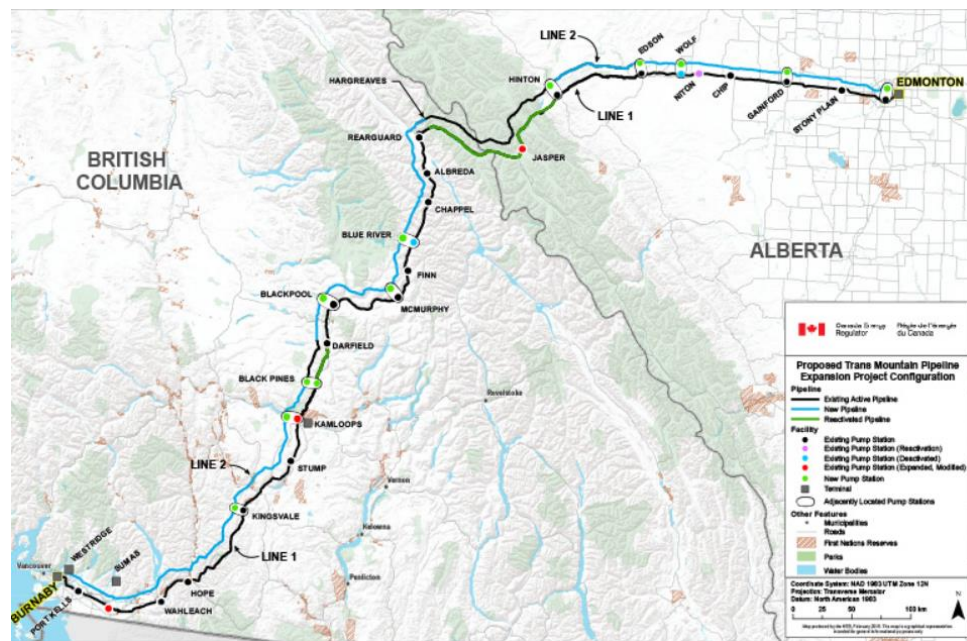




# Scope and Scale of Projects - Example

## Trans Mountain Expansion Project

- Twinning of the existing 1,147 km pipeline system from Edmonton to Vancouver (approx. the distance from Christchurch to Auckland)
- 129 potentially affected Indigenous Nations
- 4,400 potentially affected owners and occupants of properties
- IA process involved 400 intervenors and 1,250 commenters





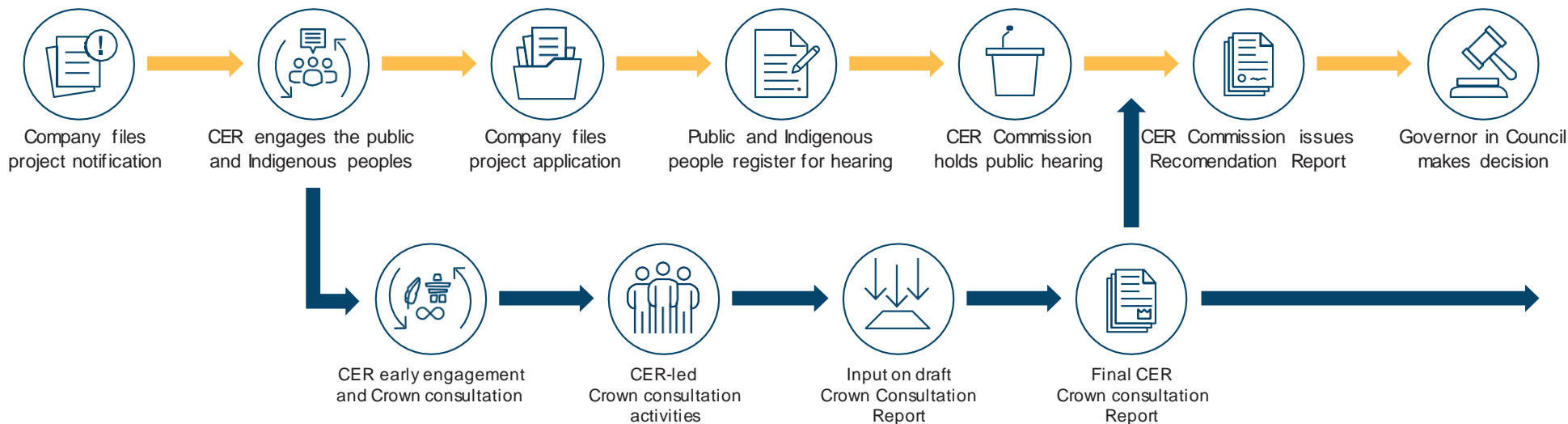
# Implications for IA Processes

- More involvement during early engagement
- More transparent and inclusive processes
  - process design workshops, capacity-building workshops, process support, participant funding, conditions workshop
- Culturally-appropriate processes
  - oral traditions, ceremonies, locations, timing
- Distinct opportunities for Indigenous peoples that complement the public process





# IA & Indigenous Consultation Processes





# Implications for Social Impact Assessments

- New factors to consider ([CER Act](#))
- New expectations for proponents (GBA+, rights of Indigenous peoples) ([CER Filing Manual](#))
- Coordination with biophysical factors
- Respect for Indigenous knowledge
- SIA monitoring plans (indicators, thresholds) with adaptive management
- Requiring proponents to include Indigenous monitors
- Involving Indigenous monitors in CER oversight





# Final Thoughts

Equity considerations are essential for SIA and IA

- SIA drives transparency and continuous improvement of IA
- SIA promotes integration of social and environmental considerations
- Requires different training for IA practitioners
- Creates different career opportunities
- Results in better decisions and contributes to a more sustainable world





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