

# ***Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA)*** **Oversight Group – Fact Sheet – September 2019**

## **About the Oversight Group**

The Oversight Group was established as a result of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Reset Memorandum of Understanding, signed in November 2017, by Yukon First Nations with Final Agreements, the Government of Yukon, and the Government of Canada. The Parties are committed to working together to re-establish collaboration for the purpose of fully implementing the development assessment process in accordance with the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and facilitating its improvement in the spirit of partnership, respect and cooperation.

The purpose of the Oversight Group is to oversee the development assessment process in the Yukon and promote its ongoing improvement while respecting the independence of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

The Oversight Group consists of four members:

- Daryn Leas and Emmie Fairclough, who are the two representatives appointed by Yukon First Nations
- Jasmina Randhawa, who is the representative appointed by the Government of Yukon
- Dionne Savill, who is the representative appointed by the Government of Canada

## **Oversight Group Priorities**

The Oversight Group approved a series of priorities, which was informed by submissions from Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon, the Government of Canada and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. The Oversight Group also took into consideration the concerns and interests expressed by various non-governmental organizations, including industry and conservations groups. These priorities may be addressed through forums, working groups, technical committees, or any other means as agreed upon by the Oversight Group.

The priorities generally fall into three common themes:

- A. *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Forum
- B. Consultation and Engagement
- C. Policy/Procedural Aspects

Establishing the Oversight Group and its priorities required careful consideration and significant input from each government over the course of several meetings. Now that the Terms of Reference and priorities have been established, the Oversight Group will continue working with the Parties and other stakeholders to advance progress on the ongoing improvement of the development assessment process.

For further details on the priority areas, see the Oversight Group Priorities Document.

### **The Oversight Group's Relationship with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board**

The Oversight Group has been working closely with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and will continue to engage regularly. The Oversight Group does not provide direction to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and recognizes that it operates independently from all governments.

### **Oversight Group Collaboration with other First Nations, organizations and stakeholders**

Progress to date has been focused on establishing the structure and priorities of the Oversight Group. Moving forward, there will be an increased level of engagement and collaboration with all stakeholders who have an interest in the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* to further discuss issues and concerns. Industry, First Nations, and other organizations will be invited to participate in the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Forum, and there may be other specific engagement opportunities.

### **Contributing to the work of the Oversight Group**

The Oversight Group will be planning meetings with industry, First Nations without Final Agreements, Transboundary First Nations, and other organizations throughout the fall of 2019. There will also be opportunities for input from organizations and stakeholders outside the Oversight Group membership through the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Forum, as well as through topic-specific working groups. The Oversight Group expects to meet with these groups before the next *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Forum, which is planned for November 2019.

### **Expected Results for the Revitalization of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Forum**

*Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Forum will create a community of practice for practitioners to engage in multi-lateral discussion, analysis and training, and to develop recommendations to the Oversight Group to address a number of related topics. Industry and other organizations will be invited to participate and contribute to these discussions. The outcomes of these discussions will be addressed by the Oversight Group. The next Forum is planned for November 2019.

### **For More Information and Further Updates**

The Oversight Group will host a webpage where you may find further information and updates. ***[Note: Add website URL when available and change tense]***

If you have questions or input for the Oversight Group, please contact the Chair of the Oversight Group, Dionne Savill, at [Dionne.Savill@canada.ca](mailto:Dionne.Savill@canada.ca) or 867-667-3888.