

File: ARCS-048-22339 / ARRP IN

Reference: 410993

July 10, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL

To whom it may concern:

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) wishes to notify you of its upcoming legislative review of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, 2018 (the Act). The Act outlines the process for conducting assessments for major projects in British Columbia that are reviewable under the Act and carrying out monitoring, compliance, and enforcement activities on those projects.

As <u>required by the Act</u>, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy must initiate a review of the Act within five years of the Act coming into force (December 16, 2019). This means the review must begin by December 16, 2024, as seen below:

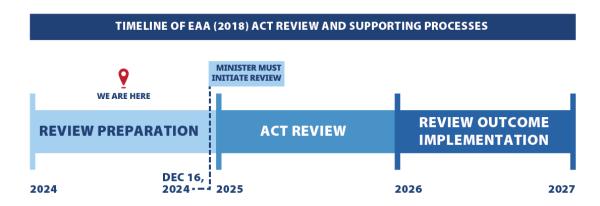


Figure 1: Timeline of the Environmental Assessment Act (2018) Act Review and Supporting Processes.

As part of the review preparation phase, the EAO will be engaging with First Nations, industry associations, and other associations including the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), to identify potential areas of focus for the review. This initial engagement, which will take place during the summer of 2024, will focus only on issues identification so that the EAO can be sure it understands what the key issues are with the Act. The EAO will not consider making changes to the Act until after the Act Review has begun.

If you would like to notify us of any issue with the Act and/or its regulations that you have identified, please contact UBCM with this information. Once the Act Review has begun, local governments, and all other interested and affected groups, will have the chance to participate in a future round of engagement.

Further information

If you have any questions related to the Act Review or the upcoming engagement of industry associations, please contact <u>EAO.ActReview@gov.bc.ca</u>.

Sincerely,

Chris Trumpy

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A/Chief Executive Assessment Officer and Associate Deputy Minister