

- **Responsible Authority**

The federal government department or agency conducting the environmental assessment.

- **Scoping**

Items that the environmental assessment process should take into consideration.

- **Screening**

Review of whether or not an environmental assessment is needed for a particular project or under the CEAA, a screening is one of four possible types of environmental assessments conducted under the CEAA.

- **Spatial Boundaries**

Geographical boundaries, the area the project will be considered.

- **Sustainability**

The idea of balancing biophysical or socio-economic development for future generations.

- **Temporal Boundaries**

Time frames considered.

- **Threshold**

Limit, critical point or value (in measurement) of a variable that if exceeded could cause undesirable effects.

- **Treaty Rights**

Certain rights reserved by signing treaties. Treaties protected rights such as hunting, fishing and gathering in traditional territories as well as education and health, in exchange for land and resources.

- **Valued Ecosystem Component (VEC)**

Aspects of the environment, both physical and human which are important to the public or from an ecological perspective.

## Abbreviations / Acronyms

**AM** — Adaptive Management

**CEAA** — Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

**CEA** — Cumulative Effects Assessment

**EA** — Environmental Assessment

**EIA** — Environmental Impact Assessment

**EIS** — Environmental Impact Statement

**NWAC** — Native Women's Association of Canada

**NWMO** — Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**ENGO** — Environmental Non-Governmental Organization

**VEC** — Valued Ecosystem Component

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# Finding Your Voice:

## Environmental Toolkit for Aboriginal Women

## Glossary of Terms



# Glossary of Terms

- **Aboriginal Rights**

Aboriginal rights are inherent, collective rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples from original occupation of lands. These rights are recognized under Section 35 of the Constitution Act of Canada.

- **Aboriginal Title**

Aboriginal title is a right relating to land which is held communally and cannot be transferred to anyone other than the Crown (government). If an Aboriginal group had occupied land at the time the British acquired sovereignty, and had not abandoned or surrendered the land after that time, it has Aboriginal title to the land.

- **Adaptive Management**

A management process that uses continuous feedback to guide decision-making.

- **Baseline**

Information relating to the environment before a project or change.

- **Blog**

An online form of community communication or “weblog” which allows for public commentary.

- **Comprehensive Study**

A type of environmental assessment (under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*) that requires rigorous review of a proposed project.

- **Comprehensive Study List Regulation**

Describes specific projects that are required to undergo a comprehensive study under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

- **Cultural Impacts**

Changes to one’s cultural values, etc., based on decisions such as economic development.

- **Cumulative Effects**

Two or more environmental affects interacting or combining with each other or the environmental affect over a period of time.

- **Cumulative Effects Assessment**

Assessing the effects of two or more environmental affects interacting or combining with each other or the environmental affect over a period of time.

- **Effect**

Induced change.

- **Environmental Assessment**

The process of determining the potential impacts to an area as a result of a proposed project.

- **Environmental Assessment Report**

A report detailing the EA. Also see Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

See Environmental Assessment.

- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

The physical document presenting the findings of the environmental assessment. Also referred to Environmental Impact Statement.

- **Exclusion List Regulations**

A list of projects that do not require an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

- **Federal Authority**

A federal body (example: a department or agency) that may have expertise or a mandate relevant to a project.

- **Impact**

A biophysical or socio-economic change caused by something.

- **Inclusion List Regulations**

List of activities that are required to undergo an environmental assessment.

- **Law List Regulations**

Outlines federal permits or authorizations that would require a Canadian Environmental Assessment to be completed.

- **Mediation**

A process for resolving disputes that uses a neutral third party to help with communication between the parties disagreeing.

- **Mitigation**

Reducing or minimizing the environmental effect of a project.

- **Monitoring**

Measurements of expected changes to the environment as a result of a project or change.

- **Panel Review**

A group of people appointed by the government to review a proposed project and make recommendations to the Minister of Environment about the future of the project.

- **Project**

A proposed activity defined as either an undertaking in relation to a physical work or any proposed physical activity that is not a physical work.

- **Proponent**

The company or organization who owns the proposed project.

- **Public Registry**

It is an online public record for the purpose of facilitating public access to records relating to environmental assessments.

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