



Impact Assessment

FACT SHEET (EXTERNAL AUDIENCE)

What You Should Know About Impact Assessment Requirements for Project Proposals

Proposed projects within protected heritage places administered by Parks Canada are subject to Impact Assessment (IA).

- Where the **Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012 (CEAA 2012)** applies, Parks Canada uses the "Environmental Impact Analysis" (EIA) process (a form of IA). CEAA 2012 applies in all provinces and in certain parts of the Northwest Territories.
- IA processes in **northern Canada** follow provisions in the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act, Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, Inuvialuit Final Agreement and Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act.
- The **Species at Risk Act (SARA)** requires that IA processes consider potential effects of proposed activities to listed SAR (individuals, the residences of the individuals, or their critical habitat). In addition, mitigation and follow-up monitoring are required when there are adverse effects to SAR, and there may be requirements for written notification of the competent minister and for issuance of an authorization.
- IA processes provide an integrated means of addressing legal obligations under SARA as well as the *Fisheries Act*, *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Navigation Protection Act*.

What is the benefit of conducting IA?

Parks Canada protects and presents outstanding examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and ensures these places are protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations. IA processes are an important part of planning to ensure that these special places remain unimpaired for Canadians.

Important Points about Project Planning and IA:

- **Start early!** Early consultation with Parks Canada will help establish realistic timeframes and identify any additional requirements related to your project.
- **Build flexibility** into your project plans in order to be able to respond to requirements for mitigation and follow-up monitoring identified in the IA.



Questions & Answers for Project Proponents:

How do I determine if my project requires an IA?

- Contact Parks Canada at the protected heritage place when you are considering a project proposal. You will be asked to provide a description of your proposed project, and Parks Canada staff will review your proposal to determine if it requires an IA.
- Project proposals will also be reviewed to ensure they are compliant with Parks Canada policy and plans.

My project requires an IA– now what?

- Parks Canada staff will outline IA requirements for your project. If you do not have the biological/cultural expertise to prepare the IA, you may wish to hire a qualified consultant to do so. Parks Canada will review the draft IA and specify any necessary revisions prior to submitting a final draft to the Field Unit Superintendent or Director of a Waterway for decision.
- The length of time required for the IA process will depend on a number of factors, including the timing and complexity of the project; the submission of sufficient environmental detail about the project site, and whether there is a requirement for public and stakeholder engagement or Aboriginal consultation. Parks Canada will discuss timing considerations once the project scope has been clarified.
- Work on a project cannot commence until the IA has been approved by Parks Canada **and** required permits/authorizations (e.g. a building permit) that include the mitigation measures outlined within the IA are issued.

What happens once the IA is approved?

- You are responsible for ensuring that the mitigations and any other conditions of the IA, permit or authorization are implemented.
- If new environmental information comes to light after the IA is approved, or if the manner in which the project is to be carried out changes (e.g. construction methods change), additional review may be required. Notify your Parks Canada contact of delays or changes to your project.
- The need for a follow-up program (longer term monitoring of project impacts and success of mitigation measures) will be determined during the IA and specified in project permits/authorizations.

How can I get more information about IA requirements?

- Contact Parks Canada staff at the protected heritage place where you are proposing work, or email EA.EE@pc.gc.ca
- If your project is proposed within a protected heritage place where CEAA 2012 applies, request a copy of the *Parks Canada Guide to the Environmental Impact Analysis Process*.