



Major Projects Office

Projects of National Interest: The Process

Under the *Building Canada Act*, the Major Projects Office (MPO) advances executable projects in the national interest, through a streamlined federal review process.

Process to list projects of national interest

Step 1: Project submission

Proponents, Indigenous Peoples, provinces and territories, municipalities, etc. submit projects to the MPO.

Step 2: Initial review

MPO conducts an initial assessment of the projects' contribution to national interest factors and identifies which federal approvals are required.

Step 3: Consultations

MPO ensures consultations with Indigenous Peoples, as well as provinces/territories and federal ministers.

Governor in Council decisions

Ongoing consultation with Indigenous Peoples throughout this phase.

Step 4: Minister's recommendation

The Minister recommends to the Governor in Council (GiC) that the project be listed in Schedule 1 of the *Building Canada Act*.

Governor in Council refers to the Governor General acting on the advice and recommendations of the Cabinet.

Step 5: 30-day notice

A 30-day notice is posted in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I. Provinces and territories give written consent to list if a project falls within an area of their exclusive jurisdiction.

Schedule 1 is the list of projects deemed to be in the national interest.

Step 6: GiC Decision and Order in Council

The order in council is published in the *Canada Gazette*. The project of national interest and a description are added to Schedule 1. The project details are posted in an online registry.

Upfront Greenlight

Consultation with Indigenous Peoples is ongoing throughout this phase.

Step 7: Regulatory Approvals and Conditions

Once the project has been added to Schedule 1, the *Building Canada Act* provides upfront conditional federal approvals, shifting the focus of regulatory review from "whether" to proceed to "how" the project can proceed:

- MPO works with proponents and expert departments and agencies on the regulatory review process and Indigenous consultation.
- Conditions related to federal approvals are consolidated in a single "conditions document," allowing the project to proceed within two years.

