

-----Original Message-----

From: Laurie Bates-Frymel [<contact information removed>

Sent: July 21, 2016 2:49 AM

To: EA Review / Examen EE (CEAA)

Subject: Metro Vancouver comments on draft Terms of Reference for Federal Environmental Assessment Expert Panel

Importance: High

?Metro Vancouver staff have reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for the Federal Environmental Assessment Expert Panel. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

The "Timeline" section describes when the Panel shall complete its review and provide its report with recommendations to the Minister, but does not indicate when the consultation process will commence. Please allow sufficient lead time for staff feedback to be considered by local government elected officials who operate within municipal Council and/or regional Board approval processes.

The "Scope of Review" section identifies several matters for the Panel's consideration including "the practices and procedures associated with the conduct of environmental assessment, such as Indigenous consultation, public participation, the role of science and harmonization with other orders of government." In addition to harmonization with provincial environmental assessment processes, within the Metro Vancouver region the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (Port of Vancouver) has its own Project and Environmental Review Process<<http://www.portvancouver.com/development-and-permits/project-and-environmental-reviews/>>. We also request clarification on how the panel will consider the role of local governments in environmental assessments. In recent years, local governments, including regional districts and municipal governments (in the B.C. context) have played a critical role, providing local expertise in the review of environmental assessments for major projects within the Metro Vancouver region. In addition, these local governments in some cases have environmental regulatory authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Terms of Reference for the Federal Environmental Assessment Expert Panel. Metro Vancouver looks forward to participating in the stakeholder engagement activities related to this initiative.

Regards,

Laurie Bates-Frymel MCIP, RPP

Senior Regional Planner, Electoral Area and Environment Parks, Planning and Environment t.

<contact information removed>

SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION