



Parks  
Canada

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# Overview of Parks Canada's Mandate, Roles and Responsibilities Related to Environmental Assessment



Review of the Federal Environmental Assessment Processes

Federal Technical Briefing of the Expert Panel  
Ottawa, Ontario      September 9, 2016



# Presentation Outline

## I Parks Canada Mandate

## II EA Roles and Responsibilities

## III Approach

- Projects on Parks Canada Lands
- Participation in Designated Project Review
- Strategic Environmental Assessment

## IV Coordination



Peace Athabasca Delta, Wood Buffalo National Park



# I Parks Canada Mandate





# Parks Canada Mandate

*“To protect and present nationally significant examples of natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.”*



Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, British Columbia



# Achieving Parks Canada's Vision

- Foster a living legacy of natural spaces with functioning and intact ecosystems and long term monitoring and research programs to inform their management
- Engage audiences to help them understand the benefits of these spaces, increase sense of connection and willingness to advocate for conservation
- Consult and collaborate with Indigenous people, visitors, neighbours, other federal departments, other levels of government and other organizations







# Parks Canada Agency

## Canada's National Parks System Plan



Parks Canada is the largest federal land manager

Operational Agency of >200 protected areas:

- 46 National Parks = >300,000 km<sup>2</sup> = 3% of Canada
- 4 National Marine Conservation Areas = ~15,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- 168 National Historic Sites

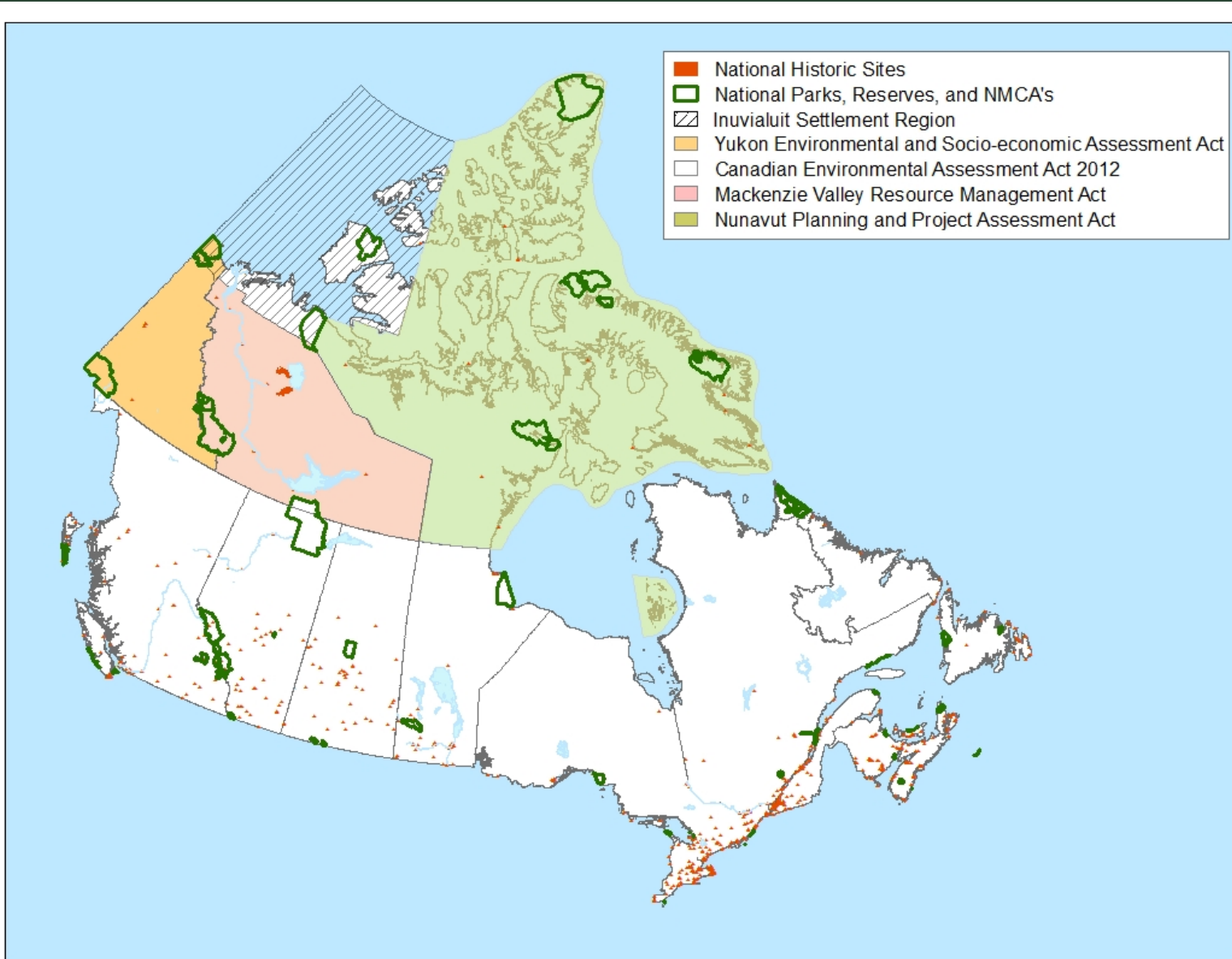
*Canada National Parks Act (CNPA), Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act (CNMCA), Species at Risk Act (SARA)*



## II EA Roles and Responsibilities



# Legislation



Parks Canada is accountable under a number of pieces of legislation and land claims to identify and manage environmental effects in protected heritage areas





# EA Roles and Responsibilities

## Projects within Parks Canada Heritage Areas

- Majority of impact assessment work is on projects proposed within Parks Canada protected heritage areas
- As a federal land manager, Parks Canada must assess potential of proposed projects to cause significant adverse environmental effects (s.5, s.67-69, CEAA 2012)
- Report annually to Parliament (s.71 CEAA 2012)
- Also routinely prepare Strategic Environmental Assessments under the Cabinet Directive



Night Birds Returning, Gwaii Haanas National Park



# EA Roles and Responsibilities

## Participation In Designated Project Reviews

- Parks Canada is a Federal Authority and provides specialist or expert advice related to Parks Canada mandate (s. 20 CEAA 2012)
- Parks Canada is the federal government expert on archaeological resources and works on all federal lands



Archaeological Dig, Beaubassin National Historic Site, Nova Scotia



Shipping near Gulf Islands National Park Reserve



Wreck of HMS Erebus



## III Approach

- **Projects on Parks Canada Lands**
- Participation in Designated Project Review
- Strategic Environmental Assessment





# Projects on Parks Canada Lands

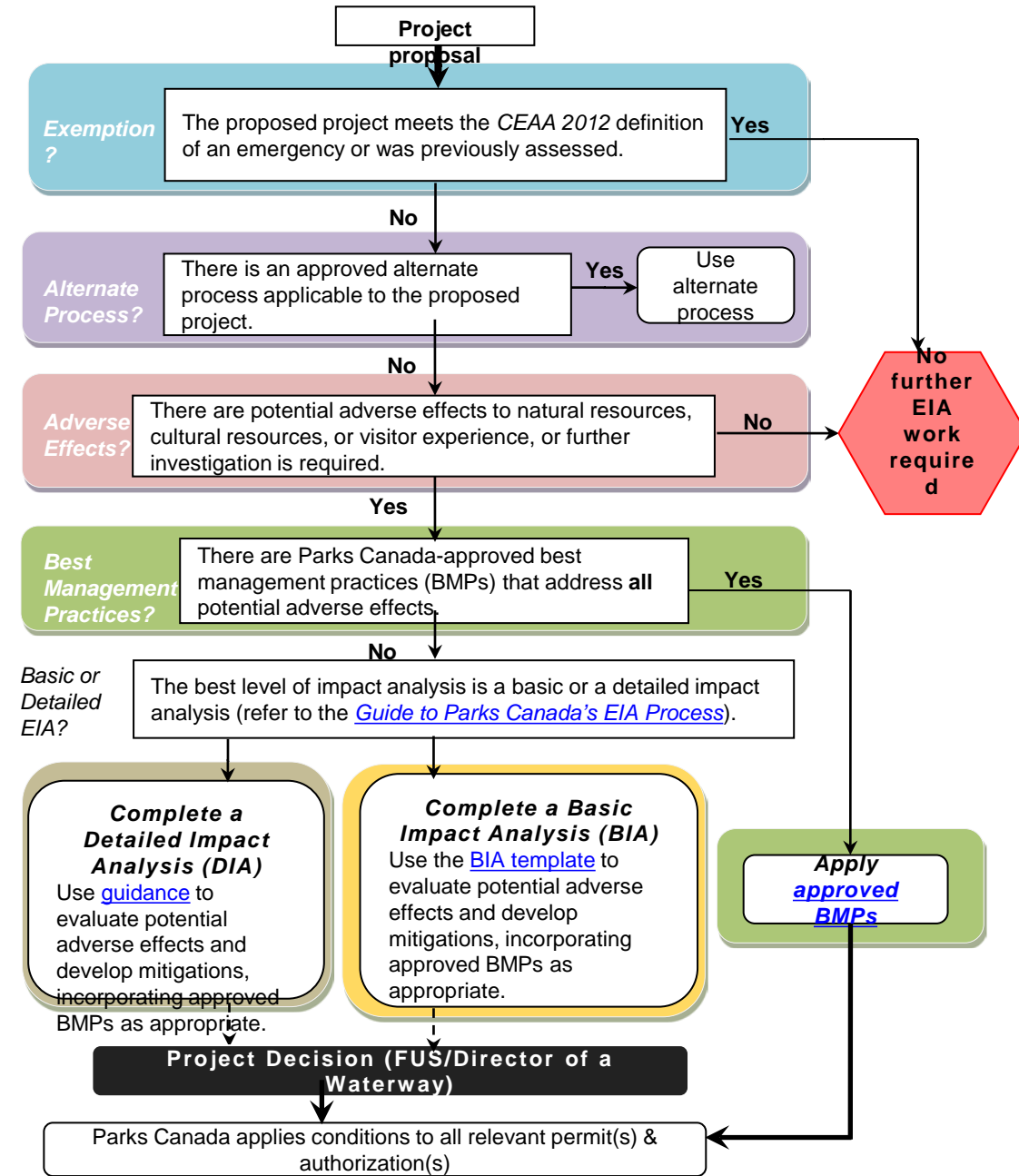
## Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA)

- Process developed by Parks Canada to meet CEAA 2012 legal requirements
- Integrated impact assessment process with distinct mandate-focussed approach

### Key components:

- Early integration with project planning
- One window approach (for SARA, Cultural Resource Management, and other legislation)
- Flexible, effective and efficient analysis
- Impacts on ecological integrity considered, mitigated, and monitored
- Appropriate level of effort, linked to project risk

EIA decision framework:  
Process for Parks Canada to determine the EIA pathway of a proposed project





# Parks Canada Impact Assessment Directive (2015)



Building encapsulation during lead paint remediation,  
Saturna Island, Gulf Island National Park Reserve

- Provides direction for application of impact assessment legislation (CEAA 2012, northern EA regimes)
- Clarifies requirements under all EA regimes
- Requires review of all projects likely to result in adverse environmental effects
- Requires policy review before Impact Assessment is initiated
- Identifies process, roles and responsibilities

*Note: “Impact Assessment” is used to describe all processes under all legislations instead of “Environmental Assessment” because of the specific meaning of that term under CEAA 2012.*



# III Approach

- Projects on Parks Canada Lands
- **Participation in Designated Project Review**
- Strategic Environmental Assessment





# Participation in Designated Project Review

## Participation In Designated Project Reviews

- Participate on federal review team when potential impacts relate to Parks Canada's mandated responsibility
- Expert Department role for projects that cross or have potential adverse effects on Parks Canada protected heritage areas
- Work strategically with other government departments (OGDs) to address areas of overlapping mandates
- Focus on Issues of Concern and Valued Components related to Parks Canada mandate



Jasper National Park, TMX Pipeline



# III Approach

- Projects on Parks Canada Lands
- Participation in Designated Project Review
- **Strategic Environmental Assessment**



# Strategic Environmental Assessment

Parks Canada prepares SEAs following the *Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals*

- Management Plans, Policies, Treasury Board Submissions

SEAs are also conducted on certain complex and novel visitor activities and developments

- E.g. Ski hill expansions, new visitor use activities



Sunshine Ski hill, Banff National Park





# Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Evaluate potential effects, including cumulative effects, on ecological integrity, cultural resources, and key visitor experience objectives
- Ensures proposals support overall ecological and commemorative integrity objectives for Parks Canada heritage places
- Parks Canada uses SEA results as a key input to informed decision making for policy and future project levels of assessment



Ukkusiksalik National Park



# IV Coordination



# Coordination

- Parks Canada participates as a member of federal review teams for Designated Projects likely to impact a protected heritage area
- Parks Canada works collaboratively with OGDs to fulfill its Federal Authority role and address areas of shared mandate concern
  - E.g. Working with ECCC air quality specialists to evaluate trans-boundary air quality issues that may impact a protected heritage area
- Parks Canada participates in the Whole of Government approach to consultation with Indigenous people, focussing on groups with whom there is a relationship.



Vimy Bridge Construction, Rideau Canal NHS





# Questions?

