



FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT Section 23, 25 & 27 Environmental Assessment

23. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

23.1 The council of a First Nation with a land code in effect will have the power to make environmental laws relating to First Nation land.

23.2 The Parties intend that there should be both an environmental assessment and an environmental protection regime for each First Nation.

23.3 The principles of these regimes are set out below.

23.4 The environmental assessment and protection regimes will be implemented through First Nation laws.

23.5 The Parties agree to harmonize their respective environmental regimes and processes, with the involvement of the provinces where they agree to participate, to promote effective and consistent environmental regimes and processes and to avoid uncertainty and duplication.

23.6 This Agreement is not intended to affect rights and powers relating to migratory birds or endangered species. These matters may be dealt with in the context of other negotiations. This Agreement is not intended to determine or prejudice the resolution of these issues.

25. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

25.1 Subject to clause 27, a First Nation will, with the assistance of the Lands Advisory Board and the appropriate federal agencies, make best efforts to develop an environmental assessment process within one year after the First Nation's land code takes effect, or within such longer period as the Minister and the First Nation may agree to.

25.2 The First Nation and the Minister will, in the individual agreement referred to in clause 6, address how to conduct the environmental assessment of projects on First Nation land during the interim period until the First Nation's environmental assessment process is developed.

25.3 The First Nation's environmental assessment process will be consistent with requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

25.4 The First Nation's environmental assessment process will be triggered in appropriate cases where the First Nation is approving, regulating, funding or undertaking a project on First Nation land. The assessment will occur as early as possible in the planning stages of the project before an irrevocable decision is made.

25.5 The Parties agree that section 10 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will not apply to projects located on First Nation land.

25.6 The Parties agree to use their best efforts to implement the principle that the First Nation's environmental assessment process be used where an environmental assessment of a project on First Nation land is required by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

25.7 The Parties agree to develop a plan to harmonize their respective environmental assessment processes, with the involvement of the provinces where they agree to participate.

27. Resources

27.1 The Parties understand that the obligation of a First Nation to establish environmental assessment and environmental protection regimes depends on adequate financial resources and expertise being available to the First Nation.