



# Going through the Environmental Assessment Process

## MINERALS NORTH 2012

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# What is Environmental Assessment or EA?

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- Legislated process
- Identifies, evaluates, mitigates potential effects of project
- Involves governments, First Nations, affected third parties, public
- Ends with decision

# Mine Projects

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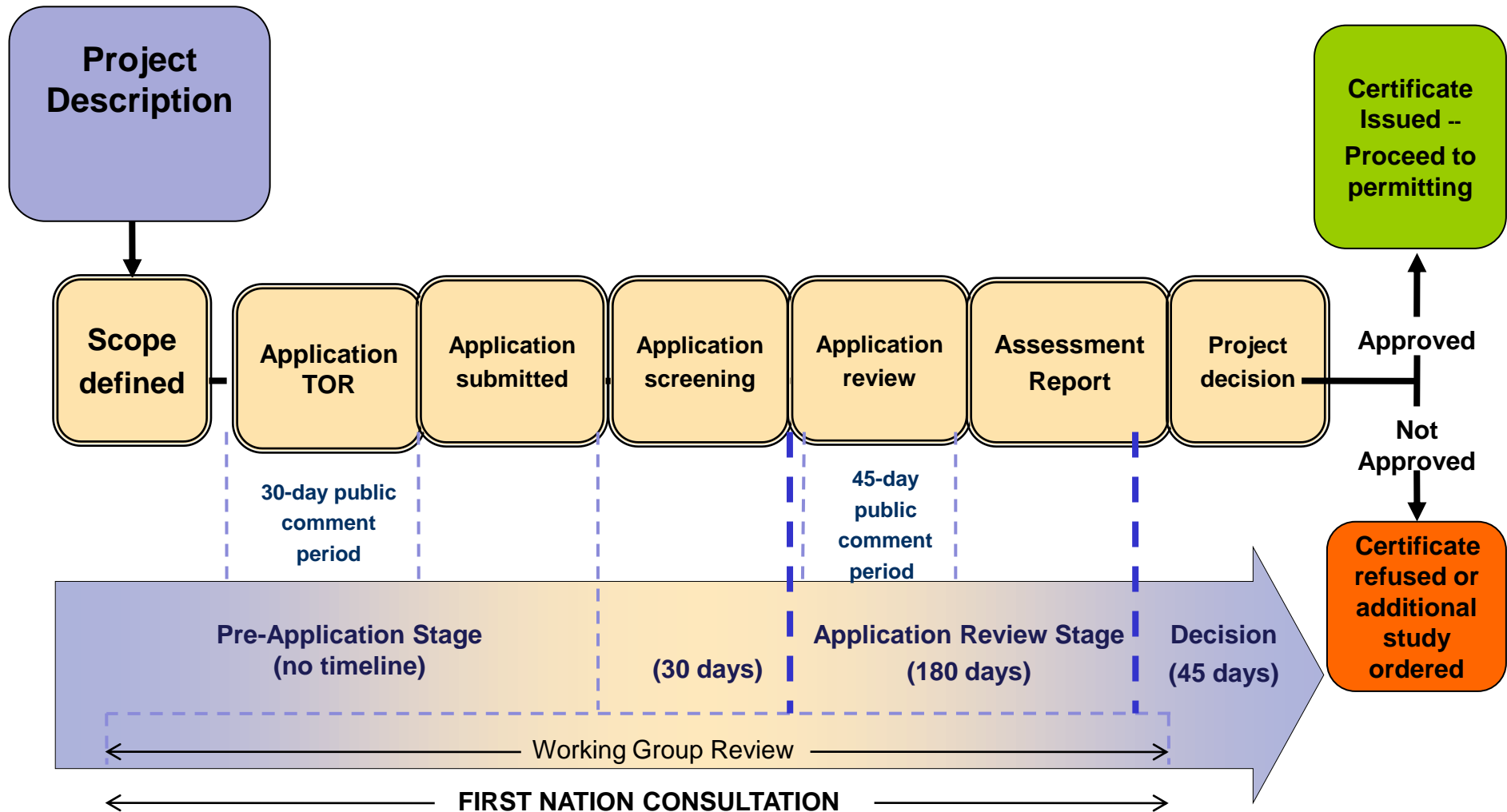
## BC Environmental Assessment Act

- New mineral mines  $\geq 75,000$  tonnes or more per year
- New coal mines  $\geq 250,000$  tonnes or more per year

## New Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

- From “all in unless excluded” to “project list”

# BC EA Process





# EA Application



# Cost of Mine Project EA

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- About 1 – 3% of initial capital costs
  - 55% for baseline data collection / analysis
  - 35% for EA (writing EA docs, participation in process)
  - 10% for permitting (excludes engineering design costs)

# Top 5 List for Successful EA

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- Early involvement of First Nations / communities
- Early issue scoping
- Early baseline studies
- Regular contact with regulators
- Integration of engineering design / environmental information

# Early FN/Community Involvement

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- Takes time to build productive relationships
- Want to ensure adequate lead time to reach agreements with First Nations



# Early Issue Scoping

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- Identifies project risks (environmental, regulatory) and opportunities
- Informs alternatives assessment (Project Description)
- Sets priorities for baseline data collection

# Early Baseline Studies





# Regular Contact with Regulators

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- They get to know your project
- They are a resource
- Become implicated in selection process for preferred alternatives

# Integration of Experts

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- Routinely bring engineers, environmental scientists together to share information, assess alternatives
- Saves time and reduces EA cost



# EA Timelines



FIRST NATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ISSUES SCOPING

BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (2 YEARS)

PRE-APPLICATION STAGE

EA REVIEW (180 DAYS)

EA DECISION (45 DAYS)

PERMITTING FOR DEVELOPMENT

3 TO 5 YEARS FOR EA PROCESS

- Potential timeframe – 3 to 5 years

# Proposed New Federal EA Act

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**C-38**

First Session, Forty-first Parliament,  
60-61 Elizabeth II, 2011-2012

**HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA**

**BILL C-38**

An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in  
Parliament on March 29, 2012 and other measures

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FIRST READING, APRIL 26, 2012

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**C-38**

Première session, quarante et unième législature,  
60-61 Elizabeth II, 2011-2012

**CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA**

**PROJET DE LOI C-38**

Loi portant exécution de certaines dispositions du budget  
déposé au Parlement le 29 mars 2012 et mettant en oeuvre  
d'autres mesures

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PREMIÈRE LECTURE LE 26 AVRIL 2012

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