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# *Background*

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## **Renewed Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation**

The Governments of Canada and Manitoba have renewed an agreement that provides coordination of the environmental assessment processes for projects that are subject to the environmental assessment legislation of both jurisdictions.

This renewed agreement:

- Forms the basis for continued effective and efficient cooperation where federal and provincial environmental assessment legislation applies to the same project proposal.
- Preserves each government's authority and legislative requirements.
- Provides for effective discussion between parties in relation to their environmental assessment responsibilities.
- Provides guidelines to determine a lead party responsible for the administration of each cooperative environmental assessment.
- Sets out the principles for carrying out a cooperative environmental assessment and describes the roles and responsibilities of the parties.
- Provides for the development of project-specific schedules to make the cooperative assessment process more timely and efficient.
- Establishes a single contact in each jurisdiction to coordinate consultation, to resolve process issues, and to ensure parties meet established timelines.
- Allows each party to use information generated through the cooperative process to make their own decisions and coordinate timing of the announcements on the proposed projects.
- Provides for an ongoing review of the bilateral agreement's effectiveness and a thorough evaluation within five years.