



A New Sustainability Assessment Law

The GBC recommends that the federal government allocate new funding of \$15 million in 2018-19, and \$30 million annually thereafter on an ongoing basis to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) to implement the next-generation assessment law. In addition, GBC recommends that the Agency's existing funding be stabilized at current levels.

The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012* will likely be replaced in 2018 by a new statute to assess the impacts on sustainability of undertakings that affect federal interests. New funding is required by the Agency to prepare for, and implement the new statute.

An independent Expert Panel made numerous recommendations in March 2017 with a view to meeting the new government's objective of restoring public trust in how natural resources are developed by focusing on achieving sustainability, reducing Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, protecting biodiversity, and promoting reconciliation with Indigenous people.

New funding is required in 2018-19, ramping up in subsequent years, to: establish new institutions and/or enhanced capacity of the Agency with regional offices to be located across Canada; provide capacity for an increased number of federal project, strategic and regional impact assessments; provide for early engagement and planning for project impact assessments; engage Indigenous peoples in decision-making at all stages of impact assessments, and ensure consideration of Indigenous rights in all assessments; ensure meaningful public participation in all assessments including updating of the public registry; and provide capacity for scientific research and economic and social analysis in support of impact assessment.

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Renewing Existing Conservation Program Funding

For many years the federal government has budgeted additional funding to Environment Canada and Climate Change, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Parks Canada to boost the implementation of the *Species at Risk Act*. The current allocation expires in 2018. In order to ensure that the government meets its commitments to catch up on species listing and achieve species protection, the GBC recommends that the Government of Canada renew and enhance funding for *Species at Risk Act* implementation by committing to \$150 million over three years of B-base funding for the proper implementation of the *Species at Risk Act*.

In addition, we would note that several programs linked to implementing species habitat stewardship and key habitat conservation programs on the ground are currently oversubscribed, with some of their funding sunsetting in 2018 and 2019, and merit renewed and/or increased funding, including:

- National Wetland Conservation Fund,
- The Habitat Stewardship Program, and
- Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk.

See page 47 for recommended funding levels.

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