

#3 CASE STUDY



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT GUIDES AND TOOLKIT FOR ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A central purpose of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is to strengthen the practice of environmental assessment in Canada through training and guidance.



WHAT HAPPENED: Dialogue Partners provided a best practices review, re-write and development of a series of Guidance and Toolkits for Public Involvement in Environmental Assessment. The Toolkit was published in the spring of 2008 and can be found on the CEAA website.

THINGS WE LEARNED ALONG THE WAY: Working to get agreement with environmental and industry groups on guidance content required extensive negotiation and mediation. Reflecting the spirit and intention of the legislation versus the letter of the law was important to present best practices, flexibility and opportunities for meaningful engagement. Creating the toolkit, and then testing it with stakeholders, helped refine and improve the materials.



<http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=46425CAF-1>

The guide has been posted on the CEAA website since 2008. The guide is a working booklet that assists practitioner, proponents and the public through the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act process. The 277 page guidance is filled with work sheets, tips, pointers, thought provoking questions and other ideas to develop public participation programs in environmental review.

