

# Proponent's Role, Responsibilities and Rights

Taking ownership of the approvals process

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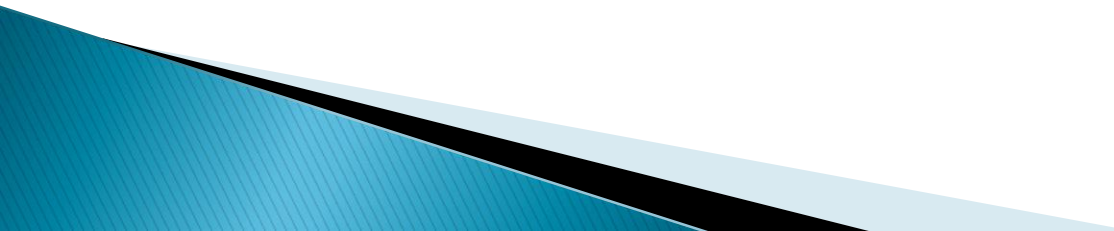
# Introduction

- ▶ There are challenges for all participants in the approvals process:
  - Government Agencies and Departments
  - Proponents
  - Interveners
  - Stakeholders
  - Aboriginal Groups
- ▶ The process is awkward and can be subjected to manipulation by all parties

# Intro cont...

- ▶ The length of the process means that circumstances may change over the duration
  - Change in the project design/ownership
  - New government policy/legislation
  - Shift in public opinion
  - New case law
  - New people at the table
  - Change in Market conditions
- ▶ Despite these challenges, given time and considerable effort, the process can work

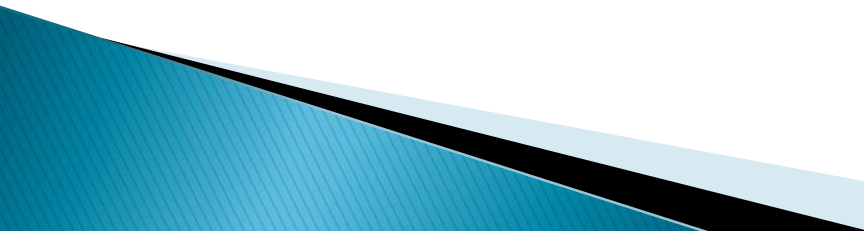
# Proponent's Role

- ▶ The Proponent must take ownership of the process to ensure that it's responsibilities are met
  - ▶ Buy in from the Board of Directors down through the Executive team is essential to ensure that commitments made through the process are understood and accepted
  - ▶ A strong "Owners Team" structure is required to manage the aspects of the process that are under the control of the proponent
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# Proponent's Responsibilities

- ▶ To minimize risk and maximize efficiencies the Owners Team should ensure that they:
  - KNOW THE PROCESS
  - SEEK CLARIFICATION
  - COMPLY WITH REQUIRMENTS
  - PROVIDE NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE
  - PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY SUBMISSIONS
  - GIVE TIMELY RESPONSES
  - CONDUCT RIGOROUS CONSULTATION
  - MAINTAIN DETAILED RECORDS OF ISSUES AND MITIGATION
  - FOCUS ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE
  - CONDUCT BUSINESS IN PROFESSIONAL MANNER


# Proponent's Rights

- ▶ The process can create an adversarial environment
  - ▶ Strict administrative control is required to prevent pitting parties against each other
  - ▶ It is the responsibility of the Agencies and Departments to ensure that a fair, objective and without prejudice process is conducted for all parties involved
  - ▶ A “firewall” between the administration of the legislation and political influence as well as influence from ALL parties is required
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# Proponent's Rights

- ▶ In addition to the right to a fair and objective process the Proponent has the right for:
  - CLEAR AND PROJECT SPECIFIC GUIDENCE DOCUMENTS
  - ABILITY TO CHALLENGE DECISIONS WITHOUT RETRIBUTION
  - MEET ADMINISTRATIVE TIMELINES
  - FILTER ISSUES, FOCUS ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE
  - ADHERENCE TO SCOPE OF GUIDELINES
  - EARLY WARNING OF PROCESS CHANGES
  - PRACTICAL AND MEANINGFUL CONDITIONS OF RELEASE
  - TREATED IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER

# Conclusion

- ▶ Proponents are primary stakeholders, with rights and responsibilities
  - ▶ The Proponent has the responsibility to take ownership of the process and be accountable for commitments made throughout the process
  - ▶ By meeting and exceeding the legislated requirements the proponent earns the right to a fair and objective process administered without prejudice by an agency or department
  - ▶ All parties should be held accountable for their responsibilities throughout the process
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Without the Proponent, NONE of us would be have a job in this industry...

