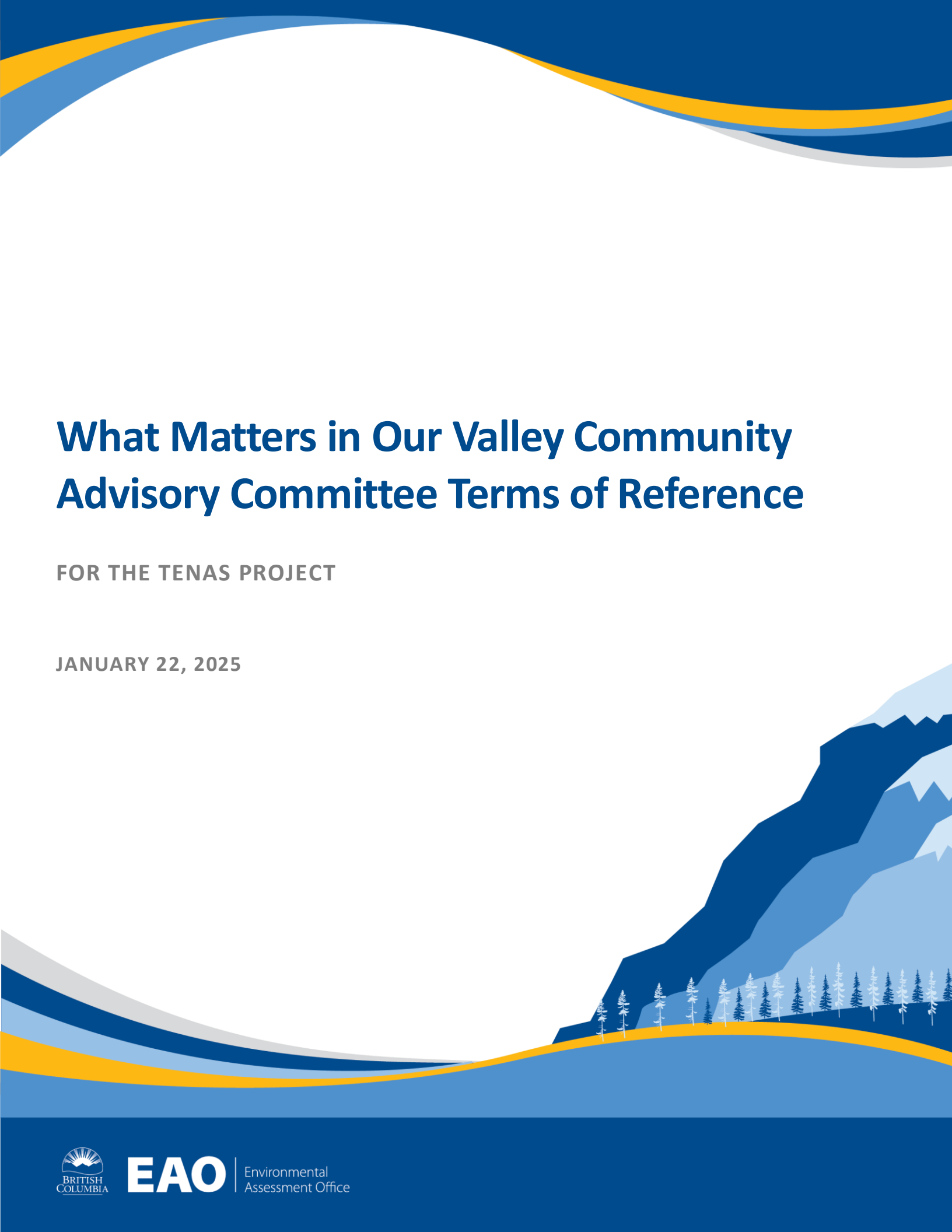




What Matters in Our Valley Community Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

FOR THE TENAS PROJECT

JANUARY 22, 2025



EAO

Environmental
Assessment Office

Background

The Tenas Project is unique in that it has transitioned from the 2002 Environmental Assessment Act to the 2018 Act late in the environmental assessment (EA) process. Community Advisory Committees (CAC) were introduced with the 2018 Act and were intended to be inclusive of any interested community members. In a typical EA process under the 2018 Act, a CAC is formed during the earlier Process Planning phase, where the opportunity to join a CAC is available to any community member that may be interested. As this earlier phase has concluded, the EAO has determined that the concerns raised by What Matters In Our Valley (WMIOV) warrants standing up a CAC for the Effects Assessment and Recommendation phase of the EA process so the EAO can better understand potential effects of the project on the community.

Purpose

The purpose of the What Matters In Our Valley CAC is to:

- Support information sharing between the EAO, WMIOV and other EA participants;
- Foster community learning about the remaining environmental assessment process and the proposed project; and,
- Provide relevant information on the Effects Assessment and Recommendation phase to the EAO to inform the assessment of the project, which must be considered in the development of the decision materials that the EAO sends to the decision makers.

Guiding Principles

Respectful Communication: CAC representatives engage in respectful communication and seek to provide informed input in a constructive manner. CAC representatives are responsible for conducting themselves in accordance with the public comment and moderation guidelines as described in the [Public Comment Policy](#) and contributing constructively during virtual or in-person meetings, public comment periods and any other established engagement activities to meet the stated objectives.

Issues-based Participation and Scope Accountability: To support mutual learning and constructive engagement, the EAO provides the CAC with information on the environmental assessment process and the proposed project. CAC representatives provide input that identifies issues or concerns or otherwise contributes to a better understanding of the potential effects of the proposed project on the community. CAC representatives avoid providing comments that only adopt a position for or against the project; rather CAC representative comments should focus on clearly articulating any interests or concerns about the project as proposed by the proponent. The CAC is intended to supplement, not duplicate or oversee, the TAC established by the EAO for the environmental assessment of the project.

Transparent and Timely Sharing of Information: The EAO informs the CAC early and regularly about the proposed project, the remaining environmental assessment process and engagement activities. CAC comments and any proponent and EAO responses will be clearly documented and accessible on the EAO's Project Information Centre and will be directly shared when possible.

Opportunities for Community Advisory Committee Representatives during Effects Assessment and Recommendation Phase

In recognition of the advanced phase that the Tenas Project is at in the EA process, the opportunity to participate on the CAC will be limited to the Effects Assessment and Recommendation phase, which will be initiated following the acceptance of Telkwa Mining Limited's information request responses, which must meet the conditions set out in the Transition Order. Once it begins, the Effects Assessment and Recommendation phase has a legislated timeline of 150 days

and includes a minimum 30-day public comment period. During the Effects Assessment and Recommendation phase, the CAC will be invited to:

- Provide input on the draft Assessment Report and the draft Environmental Assessment Certificate, including proposed conditions and project description.
- Develop a recommendations report to the EAO regarding their understanding of the potential effects of the Tenas Project on the community, using the accepted Application and information request (IR) responses to inform that submission.
 - This report will be considered by the EAO and referenced in the Assessment Report.
 - This report would be posted publicly on EPIC and used during the Effects Assessment phase to inform the EAO's assessment of effects to the community
 - The proponent will have the opportunity to respond to the report.
- Participate in any other engagement opportunities that may be established.

After the Effects Assessment and Recommendation phase, the CAC does not have any responsibilities or deliverables.

Scope and Expectations of the Community Advisory Committee

The scope of the CAC is to provide advice on the potential effects of the project on the community, the environment and the use of the proposed project area. Although members of the CAC may have technical expertise, it is not required to participate on the CAC. The CAC may describe concerns regarding project design, but the CAC is not able to require the proponent to change project design or mitigations.

It is not the responsibility of the CAC to:

- Engage directly with members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC),
- Provide or share content to members of the public, or outside the committed members of WMIOV,
- Review or provide technical memos, reports, or documents, or
- Engage with members of Participating Indigenous Nations.

The CAC is intended to provide advice to the EAO that represents the community that may be impacted (negatively or positively) by the proposed project, and not individual views and opinions. It is expected that the CAC seek ways to obtain additional community advice where possible, in particular where there could be effects on certain populations which may not be able to interact with the EA process regularly.

CAC members are accountable for adherence to the guiding principles of the CAC and deadlines established by the Project Lead at the EAO, as the delegated decision maker responsible for the EA process.

These Terms of Reference only apply to the Tenas Project CAC, and do not restrict the activities of WMIOV or the individual members of WMIOV, outside of their role as members of the CAC.

Removal of Representatives from the Community Advisory Committee

If a CAC representative is found to not abide by the guiding principles of the CAC, behaves in a way that undermines the functioning of the CAC as outlined in the Terms of Reference, or is absent from CAC proceedings repeatedly without a valid reason, they may be removed by the CAC at the Project Lead's discretion.