



Ministry of  
Infrastructure

# *Infrastructure Projects Act*

## Consultation: Provincially Significant Criteria Regulation

Local Government Elected  
Officials Webinar

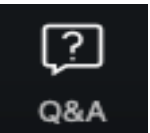
October 22, 2025



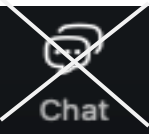
# Housekeeping



This webinar is recorded. The recording and webinar slides will be made available on our website after the session.



Use the *Q&A* function to ask your question. Questions should be clear, concise and respectful. We might not be able to answer all questions.



The *Chat* function is disabled. If you have questions, please use the *Q&A* function.



If you wish to ask your question live, please use the *Raise Hand* function and we will enable your mic and camera.



# Agenda

## Webinar Purpose: INF consultation on Provincial Significant Criteria



1) Context: The What and Why of the Infrastructure Projects Act



2) Project Categories

- INF or Provincial Capital projects and Provincially Significant projects
- Legislative and policy tools and processes



3) Provincially Significant Criteria



4) Next steps and further consultation

# 1) Context: Why and what?



# Opportunities to support community growth faster

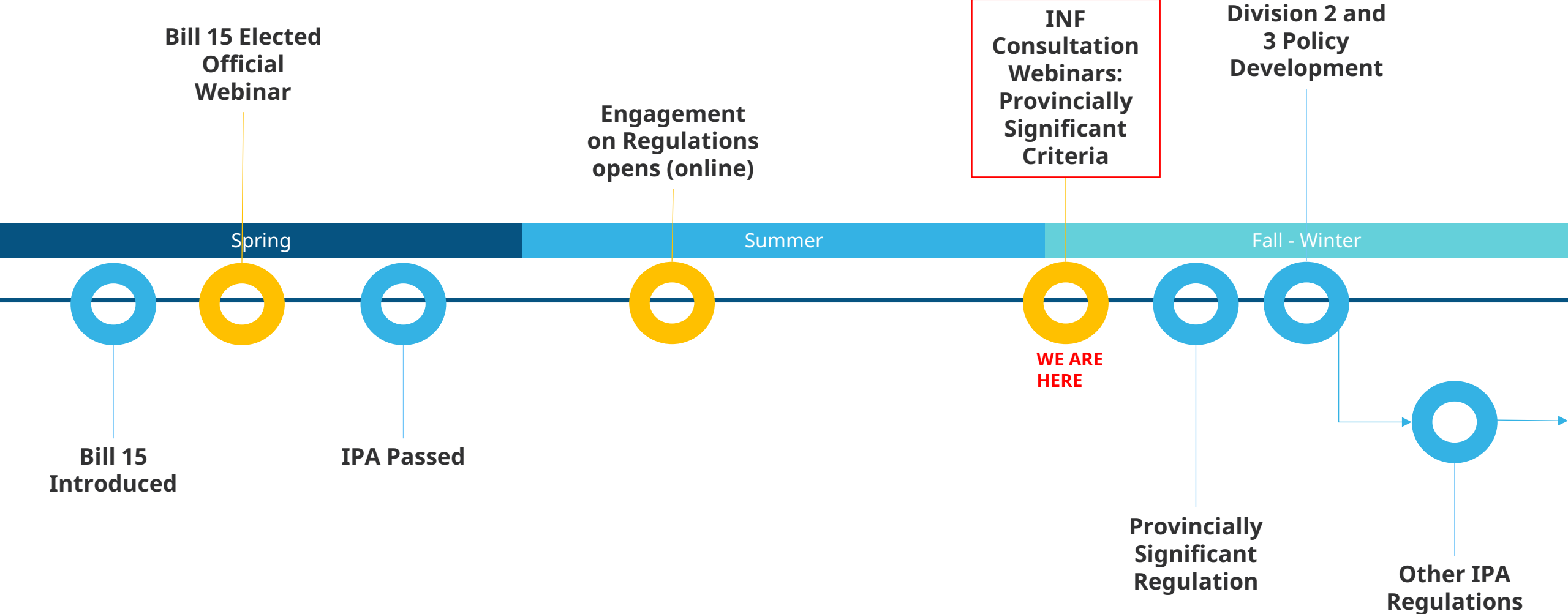
## *Why*

- **Projects can face delays caused by layered (federal, provincial, local) approval processes and permitting requirements. Delays can mean missed opportunities and higher costs for developing the infrastructure projects we need.**

## *What*

- **Building on provincial initiatives to provide community infrastructure**
- **Part of broader work to speed up permitting reviews**

# Consultation Timeline-Infrastructure Projects Act



- Policy/Legislation
- Consultation/Engagement



**Category 1: INF or  
Provincial Capital projects**



**Category 2: Provincially  
Significant projects**



# Category 1: INF or Provincial Capital projects



## Provincially funded and delivered projects

Major building or upgrade projects, like schools or hospitals. Can be delivered by:

- Provincial government partners:
  - School districts
  - Universities
  - Colleges
  - Health authorities
- Other ministries, like the Ministry of Transportation and Transit



# Category 2: Provincially Significant Projects



## **Other projects of significance to British Columbians**

Important to the whole province, and are led by one or more:

- Crown corporations (such as BC Hydro)
- Local governments
- First Nations
- Private entities

# New Pathways to Faster Reviews

## Provincial Permits

Prioritized provincial permit reviews

Qualified professional reliance model for some provincial permitting decisions

## Environmental Assessments

Expedited Environmental Assessment Review

Automatic issuance of some provincial permits once an Environmental Assessment Certificate is issued

## Local Government Reviews

Local governments can ask the province to temporarily postpone provincial land use planning requirements

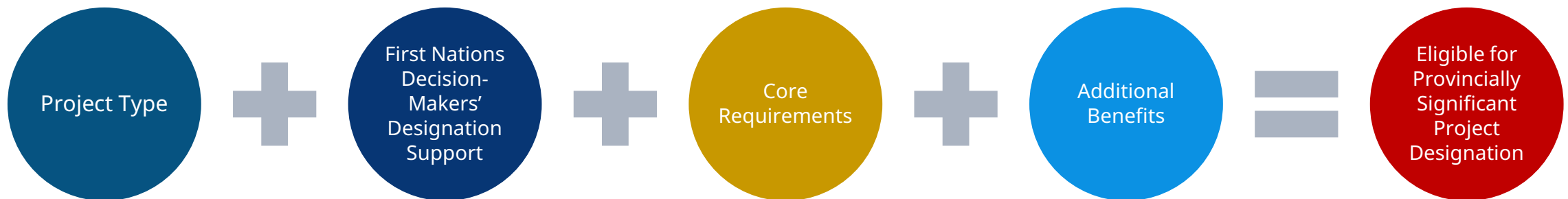
Agreement seeking process between project proponent or the Province and local governments to break through decision making barriers

The background features a stylized illustration of a modern, multi-story building with large glass windows. In front of the building, there are two benches and several trees of varying sizes and colors (green, blue, and brown). The entire scene is set against a light blue background with a large, semi-transparent circular shape behind the building.

# Seeking input today: Criteria for Provincially Significant Projects

# Category 2: Provincially Significant Projects

A project must meet **all four** proposed criteria to be designated as Provincially Significant.



# Criteria 1: Project Types

A “Provincially Significant” project must address **one or more** of the high-priority categories listed below:

- Food or water supply
- Critical minerals and mining
- Human health and safety
- Energy security
- Public infrastructure
- Supply chain capacity
- Post-disaster recovery
- Environmental restoration
- B.C.'s climate goals
- Affordable Housing

## Criteria 2: First Nations Decision-Makers' Designation Support

- The project must have designation support from significantly and directly impacted First Nations Decision-Makers
- Support means access to tools enabled in the Act, not approval of the project.
- The Province must continue to meet its duty to consult requirements.

# Criteria 3: Core Requirements

Core requirement	Meaning
Project readiness	<p><b>Financing:</b> Project must have a funding plan in place.</p> <p><b>Path to Success:</b> A plan and deliverables that includes the development of a feasibility study, a business case and partners in place.</p>
Problem can be addressed by Infrastructure Projects Act (Act)	Clearly show why a project is not moving forward and which tools in the Act can be used to address the reasons why.
Project is material and significant	<p>There are two ways to meet the core requirement of “Material and Significant”. Either:</p> <p>The project meets or exceeds a capital cost threshold of \$100 million.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>The project provides significant public benefits (for example, community amenities, boosts the local economy).</p>

# Criteria 4: Additional Benefits

Finally, a project must achieve **one or more** of the additional benefits listed to be considered Provincially Significant:

- Trade diversification
- Access to new markets
- Supply chain security
- Replacing U.S. imports
- Improves community livability (e.g. diversity of housing types, proximity of housing and employment to daily needs, transportation options, or efficient use of infrastructure)
- Achieving labour goals (e.g. apprenticeships, training)



# Stay Engaged

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