



Ministry of
Infrastructure

Infrastructure Projects Act

Consultation: Provincially Significant Criteria Regulation

Local Government Staff Webinar

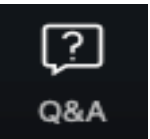
October 8, 2025



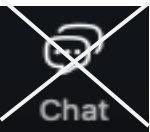
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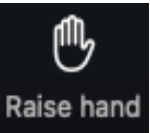
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Use the *Q&A* function to ask your question. Questions should be clear, concise and respectful. We might not be able to answer all questions.



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

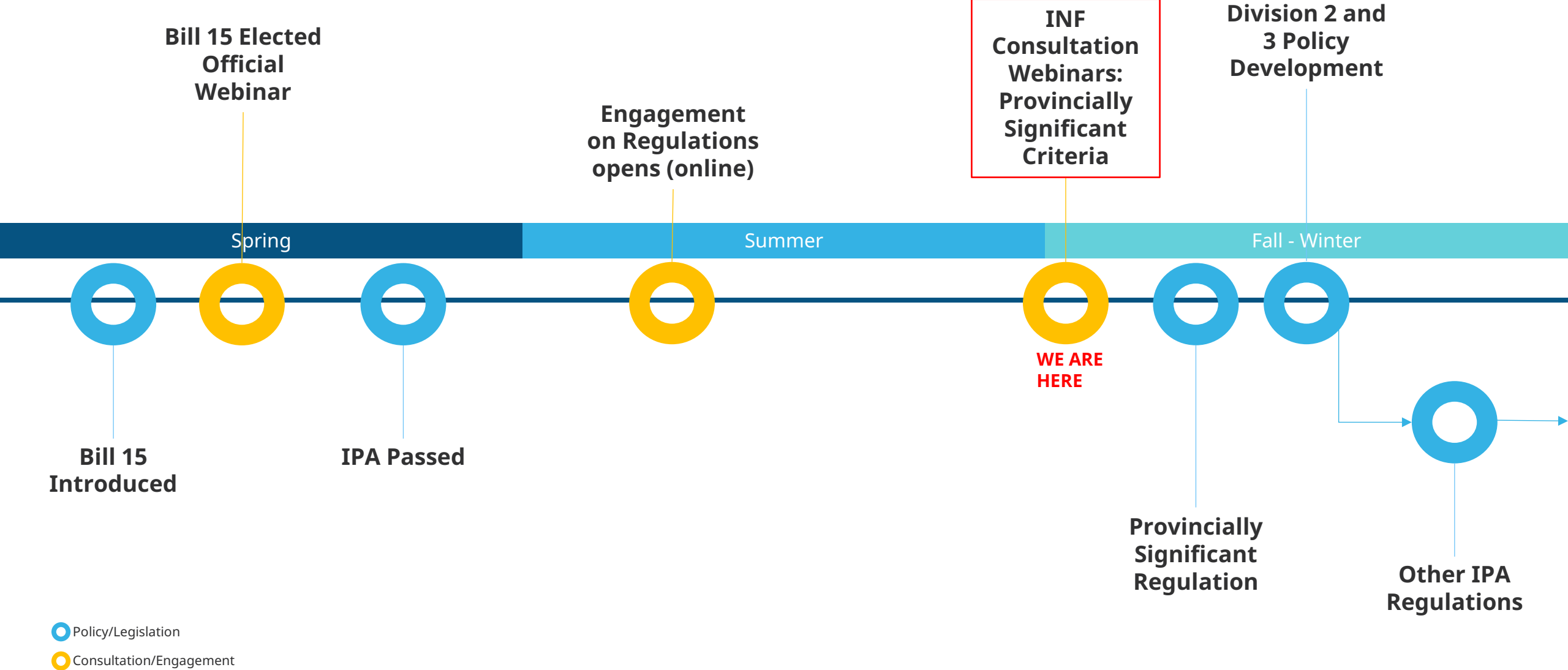
Why

- 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





**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

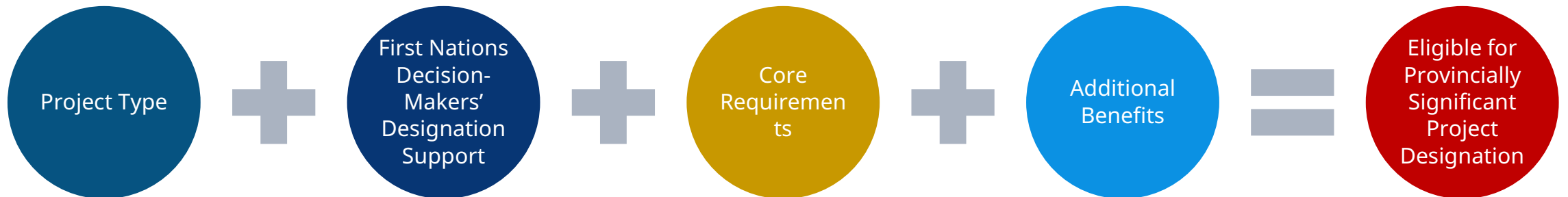
Agreement seeking process between project proponent or the Province and local governments to break through decision making barriers



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	Financing: Project must have a funding plan in place. Path to Success: A plan and deliverables that includes the development of a feasibility study, a business case and partners in place.
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	There are two ways to meet the core requirement of “Material and Significant”. Either: The project meets or exceeds a capital cost threshold of \$100 million. OR The project provides significant public benefits (for example, community amenities, boosts the local economy).

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)

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