

LMI SOURCES

Environmental Assessment Data

WHAT IS IT?

The Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Assessment (EA) process ensures that provincial projects proceed in an environmentally acceptable manner, in accordance with the requirements of the Province's Environmental Protection Act. The purpose of the Act (and, by association, the EA process) is "to facilitate the wide management of the natural resources of the province and to protect the environment and quality of life of the people of the province." As part of this process, project proponents are required to provide information on employment requirements associated with their projects. This provides you with a useful source of data for more local level employment in the province.

REASONS TO USE (STRENGTHS)

- **Enhanced local lens on employment requirements in the Province** – Because projects captured under the EA process tend to be more locally focused, the employment data collected gives you a more up-close look at the types of employment occurring in various regions of the province.
- **Wide range of indicators potentially provided** – Indicators that are regularly collected from the EA process include such items as: the number of workers in specific occupations (including apprentices and journeypersons), whether they are full-time or part-time, whether they are associated with the construction or operational phase of the project, whether they are direct hires or contracted out, and the timeline of work for these individuals throughout the course of the project. Larger projects also provide beneficial information such as: local employment and strategies for recruitment; qualification requirements met, including training opportunities (where necessary); and representation of underrepresented groups such as females and Indigenous Peoples.

AREAS OF CAUTION (WEAKNESSES)

- **Timeliness** – While general information regarding items such as employment are provided by project proponents within a shorter time frame, more comprehensive detail tends to require longer amounts of time (since they are part of larger report requirements placed upon the proponent). In some cases, information regarding larger projects can take years before it becomes available, meaning you may have to wait awhile to get all the employment details you are interested in.
- **Large differences in how employment data is summarized** – While the EA process asks proponents to provide a wealth of information regarding their projects' employment requirements, not all proponents provide the same amount of information, or do so in a timely manner. This is partly dependent on the type of reporting the proponent has been asked to do (larger reporting commitments placed on the proponent, for instance, can take a year or more to be completed). Even where proponents have made a commitment to regular employment reports during the course of their project, these are not always provided at regular intervals or are made available through the same departments. In addition, there is no single standard in terms of how employment data is provided or summarized, meaning you only have access to what has been submitted. As a result, the employment data provided through the EA process is more likely to represent a sample of local employment requirements rather than a full picture of it and differ in data availability from project to project.

RELATED LINKS

- **Information on the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Assessment Process** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/env-assessment/>
- **Guide to the Environmental Assessment Process** - https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/files/GUIDE-TO-THE-PROCESS_Jan-2024.pdf
- **Environmental Assessment list of projects (since March 2000)** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/env-assessment/projects-list/>
- **Department of Environment and Climate Change (main website)** - <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ecc/>