# **Competitive** Canada

**Recommendations to improve federal** assessment for major projects

Marla Orenstein **Canada West Foundation** September 2023

**PROBLEM 1** Jurisdictional duplication & insufficient coordination

## SOLUTIONS

- 1a One project, one assessment process
- **1b** Improve federal/provincial/ territorial coordination and cooperation
- 1c Create whole-of-government coordination...that extends to proponents



Many aspects of Canada's approval system for major projects are world-leading. The process is rigorous, inclusive and protective of the environment. However, it isn't efficient, coordinated or predictable.

This presents a competitiveness problem, but also a competitiveness opportunity. Many of Canada's competitors also struggle with slow regulatory and permitting regimes and are attempting to develop solutions.

This report focuses on opportunities for improving project approval under the federal Impact Assessment Act. Some solutions are relatively easy to implement; others require deeper change. However, as noted by the government of Australia, "Any regulatory system is only as good as its weakest link. Partial reform efforts are unlikely to achieve meaningful improvements."

**PROBLEM 5** Overly large scope

**PROBLEM 2** Low confidence in the process of federal decision-making

### SOLUTIONS

- 2a Make decisions about "dealbreakers" early and make the decisions stick
- 2b Three ministers to decide. not one
- **2c** Enhance independence of the regulator and review panels

**PROBLEM 3** Policy decisions devolved onto the project approval process that should be addressed through other

governmental processes

3a Create federal policy to

and GHG emissions

management of land,

**3c** Increase use of regional and

strategic assessments

**3b** Establish effective

resources and

3d Off-ramping

cumulative effects

clarify energy development

SOLUTIONS

4a Expedite reviews for projects of national importance

**PROBLEM 4** 

**Overly long process** 

and slipping timelines

- 4b Also, improve timelines for all projects
- onto the proponent's clock
- the process
- post-approval permitting



# **SOLUTIONS**

- - - - - Read the report:

COMPETITIVE CANADA: Recommendations to improve federal assessment for major projects Marla Orenstein

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## SOLUTIONS

5a Scope to fit the risk profile

- 5b Leverage past knowledge to right-size assessments and achieve better environmental outcomes
- 5c Appropriate size for IPD and DPD



- - **4c** Stop devolving responsibility
  - 4d Allow improved technologies to be added without slowing
  - 4e Improve the timeliness of