How does the Impact Assessment Act, Bill C-69, stack up on science?

Impact assessment is an essential tool for ensuring that industrial projects like pipelines, mines, and dams contribute to lasting and fair environmental, social, and economic well-being. Credible impact assessment needs a foundation of strong science. We compared Canada's proposed Impact Assessment Act (Bill C-69) to recommendations* made by leading scientists and policy experts, focusing on the roles of science and evidence.

Report Card

Name: Impact Assessment Act (Bill C-69)

Date: February 9, 2018

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Experts' Recommendation	Met?
Assessments account for project impact on climate change	PARTIALLY
Evidence-based, adaptive, and regional assessments	PARTIALLY
Funding for intervenor and stakeholder-led science	NO
Provisions for open science and data	PARTIALLY
Indigenous knowledge is included the framework of a nation-to-nation relationship	PARTIALLY
Provisions for rigorous, independent peer review	NO
More comprehensive, efficient, and complete assessments	PARTIALLY
Expand spatial and temporal scope of assessments	NO
Clear triggers for assessment; impact thresholds which should not be exceeded	NO
Establish clear national values and objectives for decision-making; clearly explain rationale for decisions	PARTIALLY
Precautionary principle guides assessment process from the start	PARTIALLY
Commitments to support federal agencies to do science related to assessment	NO**
Assessments contain commitments to scientific integrity	NO
Addresses issues of professional reliance	NO

*Some recommendations may be borne out in related policy, regulation, practice, and/or amendments to the Act.

**Verbal commitment made but not in legislation

See y2y.net/strongfoundations for more information.