



Environmental Appeal Board

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Announcement Regarding Expedited Appeal Rules

I am pleased to announce the 2026 update to the Board's *Expedited Appeal Rules*. This year's update replaces last year's version (the first iteration of the ruleset). The updated rules clarify and consolidate the content of the first iteration of the ruleset and makes several changes to ensure appeals of quota decisions under the *Wildlife Act* are properly streamed for expedited processing and to address key areas of delay identified in the expedited appeals that occurred in 2025.

The key updates for identifying appeals for expedited processing are:

- Communications and documents must be in electronic form for the timeframes required to be met, and the expedited process will not be available where parties cannot accommodate those requirements.
- The appellant seeking documents that include confidential Indigenous knowledge protected under section 100.3 of the *Wildlife Act* indicates that an expedited appeal is not appropriate as the timeframes for deciding the issue is incompatible with an expedited process.
- The existence or later filing of an application to join appeals by parties other than the appellant does not indicate that the expedited process is inappropriate, although the appellant seeking to do so is.
- "Appeals on Discretionary Grounds" were removed as a separate category of appeal, as the flexibility of the process allows the Board to manage all appeals through one process.

The main process changes for expedited appeals are:

- Greater clarity and promptness in identifying documents will be required for document production requests made by the party seeking an expedited appeal.
- The Board will set a deadline for appellants to decide whether they agree to changes in their grounds of appeal or requested remedy so that an expedited process may be appropriate.
- Greater clarity is provided in the rules regarding document disclosure and document production, including where the party seeking an expedited appeal is not the appellant.
- The Rules clarify the process for cross-examination of witnesses, panel questions of witnesses, and providing supplemental submissions after either of those processes, and providing reply submissions generally.

- The Rules give greater certainty about when extensions of deadlines are appropriate and what the Board will do in cases where parties fail to meet a deadline under an expedited process.

The Rules are effective immediately.

The Board looks forward to continuing to pursue every opportunity to improve the timeliness and practicality of its appeal process while maintaining a fair procedure for all involved.

Darrell Le Houillier
Chair