



FIMBC News Update - May 14, 2008

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Resource Road Act Plans Changed

The proposed Resource Road Act has been dropped from the list of Bills to be considered in the current legislative session and, as of now, all of the planning for the Act's implementation has stopped. See below for a note that was sent out to the RRA Steering Committee by its chair, Doug Kelly.

Dear Steering Committee Members,

"Government decided to withdraw the Resource Road Act from the spring 2008 legislative agenda yesterday afternoon. This decision was done in order to complete the legislative session by the end of the month and the act simply was not as high a priority as other legislation. This decision should not be interpreted that regulating resource roads under one act is not a government priority. In fact, the Bill is regarded as sound public policy and an excellent example of collaborative inter-ministerial and inter-agency cooperation.

At this point, we have not received direction from government regarding the next steps. It is possible that the Steering Committee may be directed to conduct additional stakeholder engagement through the summer of 2008 and bring the act back for spring 2009. However, until further direction is provided, we will be wrapping up the project file and downing tools on this project."

Questions & Answers

Q: Will the Resource Road Act (RRA) go ahead at some point?

Probably, at some point, but as Doug Kelly says in his note, he is awaiting further direction. So if it does go ahead, it will be delayed by at least a year.

Q: What impact will this have on the plans to eliminate the requirement for submission of As Built Road (ABR) information?

The plan to set aside that requirement (ABR) this spring is still proceeding.

Q: Will something take the place of ABR until RRA is back on the rails?

The purpose of repealing the regulations around ABR reporting is to allow time for the ministry to conduct a review of roads reporting over the next two year period to ensure that it reflects the efficient business processes for both government and industry.

Following this review, it is expected that new roads reporting requirements will be brought into effect through new regulations to replace the ones that have been recently repealed.