

8. Each Party shall ensure that tribunals that conduct or review such proceedings are impartial and independent, and do not have any substantial interest in the outcome of the matter.

#### **Article 4: Public Information and Participation**

1. Each Party shall promote public awareness of its environmental laws and policies by ensuring that information is available to the public regarding its environmental laws and policies, compliance and enforcement and procedures for interested persons to request a Party's competent authorities to investigate alleged violations of its environmental laws.

2. Each Party shall ensure that its laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application respecting any matter covered by this Agreement are promptly published or otherwise made available in such a manner so as to enable interested persons to become acquainted with them.

3. In accordance with domestic law and policy, each Party shall ensure that its environmental assessment procedures provide for the disclosure of information to the public concerning proposed plans and projects subject to assessment and shall allow for public participation in such procedures.

4. Any person residing in or established in the territory of either Party may submit a written question to either Party, through its National Coordinating Officer, indicating that the question is being submitted regarding that Party's obligations pursuant to this Agreement. Such National Coordinating Officer shall receive, record and, when the question is directed to the other Party, send the question to the other National Coordinating Officer.

5. The Party to which such question is directed shall acknowledge the question in writing, and provide a response in a timely manner to the person and provide a copy to the National Coordinating Officer of the other Party.

6. Each Party shall make publicly available in a timely manner all questions and responses and shall report on an annual basis with respect to those questions and responses.

7. The Parties shall inform the public of activities, including meetings of the Parties and cooperative activities, undertaken to implement this Agreement.

8. The Parties shall endeavour to engage the public in activities undertaken to implement this Agreement.

9. The Parties shall strive to cooperate to strengthen public participation in all matters related to the implementation of this Agreement.