

Mr. Robert Hornal Chair, Joint Review Panel

Robert Hornal is a principal of Robert Hornal and Associates Ltd. (formerly Hornal Consultants Ltd.) He brings to the firm forty years of experience in resource management, environmental and socio-economic assessment, land claim administration, land use planning, government and regulatory affairs.



Mr. Hornal graduated with the Gold Medal in Geology from Queen's University in 1961. He then spent two years as a postgraduate student at Harvard University studying geophysics.

In 1963 he returned to Canada and served for seven years as a technical officer and research scientist with the Dominion Observatory (now part of the Geological Survey of Canada) of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In 1970 Mr. Hornal was appointed Resident Geologist for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. In 1975 Mr. Hornal became Assistant Director for the Northern Affairs Program in the Northwest Territories responsible for oil and mineral exploration and development in the Northwest Territories.

In 1976 he was appointed Director for the NWT Northern Affairs Program and assumed the responsibility for managing both the renewable and non-renewable resources and for advising the federal government on new policy initiatives in the Northwest Territories.

During Mr. Hornal's period with Northern Affairs, exploration for oil and gas accelerated in the Arctic Islands and in the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea region, and the decisions were made to construct the Norman Wells Pipeline and to develop the Polaris, Nanisivik, Cullaton Lake, Prairie Creek and Contwoyto mineral deposits. During this period the territorial government evolved from a partially appointed Territorial Council to a fully elected Legislative Assembly.

Throughout the 1970s, Mr. Hornal actively encouraged the dissemination of regulatory and development information to northern communities and travelled extensively throughout the Territories meeting local councils to discuss development and government policies. As one of the senior federal civil servants in the Territories, he chaired numerous committees and liaised extensively with federal, territorial and local politicians and other government representatives.

In 1981 Mr. Hornal was appointed British Columbia Administrator of the Northern Pipeline Agency. In this post Mr. Hornal coordinated the socio-economic and environmental planning with all levels and departments of government, the proponent and the affected communities involved with the Alaska Highway Natural Gas Pipeline.

Mr. Hornal left the Northern Pipeline Agency in the spring of 1984 to become a principal in the firm of Hornal Consultants Ltd., now Robert Hornal and Associates Ltd., a Vancouver based consulting firm specializing in resource management, aboriginal, environmental and socio-economic issues.

Robert Hornal has been using environmental and socio-economic assessment procedures and practices since they were introduced into Canada during the late 1960s and early 1970s. He is completely familiar with the federal government's Environmental Assessment Review Process, having served as a panel member, advisor to panels and as a member of the secretariat to panels. He has worked extensively with the environmental impact review board of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and, on occasion, for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. He has also prepared submissions for panel reviews.