

First Nations Consultation & Engagement

Consultation Process

What is Engagement?

Engagement is different than consultation. Engagement aims to build relationships with First Nations by exchanging information in the absence of legal consultation obligations.

The purpose of engagement is to build trust and create meaningful relationships. This includes information sharing regarding regulations, policy, legislation and procedures.

What is Consultation?

Consultation refers to the legal obligations of the Crown (Government) when Aboriginal interests (rights and title) may be adversely affected by a Crown decision.

Consultation consists of information sharing between government and affected First Nations and seeks to resolve potential adverse impacts to Aboriginal interests.

- 1 Preparation:** application summary and initial impact assessment.
- 2 Initiation:** distribute application and initial impact assessment to First Nations for review and follow-up.
- 3 Discussion:** conversations regarding concerns, information requests, potential impacts, potential mitigation/accommodation, and issue resolution.
- 4 Decision and Follow Up:** Statutory Decision Maker reviews consultation record; where appropriate or requested decision shared with First Nations.



What is the Commission's Role?

Consultation and engagement are foundational to developing and maintaining positive working relationships with First Nations across B.C. The Principles that guide the Province of BC's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples are central to the Commission's commitment to meaningful consultation and engagement. The Commission is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The province is home to many distinct First Nations communities and Indigenous cultures; therefore, consultation and engagement approaches must be consistent but flexible as all First Nations share an interest in the decision-making processes. The Commission is responsible for the Crown's legal obligations to consult and accommodate First Nations within the regulatory scope. In doing so, multiple First Nations may be consulted in relation to an individual application with the level of consultation dependent on the particulars of each proposed activity.

What is the Proponent's Role?

The Commission encourages proponents to engage with interested Indigenous communities early and often. Engagement by the proponent is designed to increase information sharing among all parties. It plays an important role in identification of First Nations' interests and helps build relationships, establish effective mitigation measures, and facilitates economic development opportunities.



For Further Information

Email ogc.communications@bcogc.ca or call 250-794-5200

24 Hour Incident Reporting for Industry 1-800-663-3456

This information is published by the BC Oil and Gas Commission and available online at www.bcogc.ca

How Do We Respect Indigenous Interests Affected by Oil and Gas?

The Commission seeks to build relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities through a variety of opportunities throughout the regulatory lifecycle. This effort is further supported by the Natural Resource Sector Aboriginal Liaison Program. The Commission and Provincial Government Agencies established the Natural Resource Sector Aboriginal Liaison Program to support greater Indigenous community awareness of oil and gas planning, development, safety, environmental, restoration and compliance.

First Nations Engagement and Consultation Happens Continuously Throughout the Regulatory Lifecycle



Building Strong Working Relationships with Indigenous Communities throughout the Regulatory Life Cycle

