

Natural Resource Aboriginal Liaison Program (ALP): Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ALP?

- *The ALP is an initiative that improves communication and develops partnerships between Indigenous communities and the Province's natural resource agencies to facilitate Indigenous involvement in stewardship and monitoring of natural resource development in northern B.C.*
- *ALP creates opportunity for agencies and Indigenous communities to work together and improve awareness of natural resource regulatory oversight, development, stewardship monitoring, emergency management, and restoration activities, etc.*
- *Through the ALP, communities hire Liaisons as monitors to observe and report to their communities about resource development activities on their traditional territories. The ALP provides training opportunities to improve Liaisons' knowledge and understanding of development activities and impacts, and enables them to inform their community with objective, reliable, and sound information.*

What are the goals of the ALP?

- *To develop communication, relationships, and interactions between Indigenous groups and agencies that regulate natural resource development and emergency response;*
- *To enhance awareness of Indigenous communities about the role of agencies in regulating the lifecycle of natural resource development; and*
- *To enhance agency staff awareness of Indigenous peoples' values and traditional knowledge in relation to natural resources.*

What is the role of a Liaison?

- *ALP Liaisons are hired by their community as monitors to observe and report about resource development activities on their traditional territories. The Liaison encourages two-way communication and information sharing between their community and natural resource agencies.*
- *Once trained, Liaisons work with agency staff to monitor compliance of resource development activities and resulting stewardship outcomes. Liaisons may be assigned monitoring and inspection tasks as appropriate, including reporting their observations and findings to their community and the ALP.*

How is ALP being developed?

- *The ALP has been active since 2014, starting with relationship-building between Doig River First Nation and the BC Oil and Gas Commission in northeast B.C., and has grown to nine ALP agreements, 15 northern First Nations, and all natural resource agencies in three northern B.C. regions.*
- *The ALP has been developed in collaboration with participating Indigenous communities, focusing initially on communities in Treaty 8 and along the northern gas pipeline corridors.*

Will the scope of the Liaison role grow over time?

- *Coordinated through a provincial ALP Steering Committee, the ALP has expanded the role of the Liaison to include participation in compliance oversight, stewardship monitoring, and emergency management with provincial natural resource agencies.*

Will other First Nations have access to the First Nations Monitoring and Liaison Program?

- *The ALP Steering Committee continues to explore ways to build programs with Indigenous communities potentially impacted by natural resource sector activities. The steering committee is currently working with the following communities in implementing the ALP:*
 - *Blueberry River First Nation;*
 - *Carrier Sekani First Nations;*
 - *Doig River First Nation;*
 - *Fort Nelson First Nation;*
 - *Haisla Nation;*
 - *Lake Babine Nation;*
 - *Nisga'a Lisims Government;*
 - *Prophet River First Nation; and*
 - *Saulteau First Nations.*
- *The ALP may be expanded in future years pending the availability of resources and success of the current agreements. At this time funding and resources are limited and temporary and do not provide for development of agreements with other Indigenous communities. Natural resource agencies continue to explore opportunities to address these constraints.*

For further information, please contact:

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