



ACEC British Columbia Position Paper

Aboriginal Engagement Resources to Assist Consultants

In most resource-based projects, consulting engineers are often engaged in the very early stages to do preliminary work and investigation. Increasingly, clients of ACEC-BC members are requesting consultants to outline their approaches to aboriginal engagement. This position paper is intended to provide some guidance to ACEC-BC members on resources available and information that will assist in effectively engaging the aboriginal community.

What is Aboriginal Engagement?

Experience has shown that engagement with Aboriginal groups early in the planning and design phases of a proposed project can benefit all concerned. Conversely, there have been instances where failure to participate in a process of early engagement with Aboriginal people has led to avoidable project delays and increased costs to proponents.

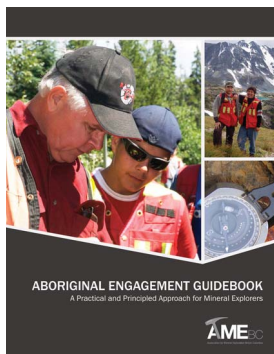
So what is early engagement? Essentially it is about starting conversations early – well before the project requires First Nations' support for permitting or engagement is necessary. In the very early days it means two-way conversation which is honest, open and forthright. It is important to understand it takes time to build assurances, bridge cultural differences and gain trust. This doesn't happen with one conversation, it happens over many conversations.

Resources Available

There are several excellent resource documents and sites that can assist members of ACEC-BC on this matter. We would encourage you to become familiar with these resources if your firm will be dealing with projects that may impact aboriginal communities.

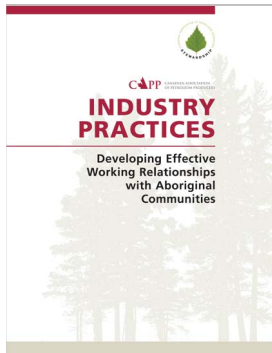
1) **Aboriginal Engagement Guidebook**

Association of Mineral Exploration



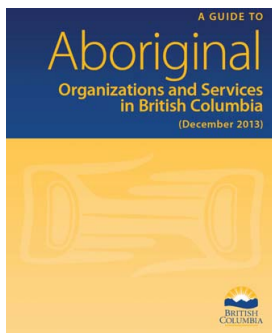
This Aboriginal Engagement Guidebook is to be used as a practical tool for mineral explorers working in British Columbia (BC). The intent of the Guidebook is to offer a realistic portrayal of how mineral explorers in BC find that their interests intersect with those of Aboriginal peoples, both in the field and during the regulatory process, and provide guidance on how to create a pathway for the shared prosperity associated with mineral exploration and development.

2) **Developing Effective Working Relationships with Aboriginal Communities**
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers



This guide addresses the key issues and supporting rationale for oil and gas proponents operating in areas of identified interest to aboriginal communities.

3) **Consulting with First Nations**
Province of BC

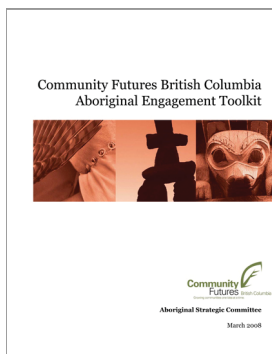


This website has a number of guidelines and procedure manuals that are designed to assist government officials and proponents with meeting consultation obligations with First Nations.

This website has a very useful document, [A Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia](#), which is a provincial listing of First Nation, Métis and Aboriginal organizations, communities and community services.

A recent resource offered by the Province of BC is the [First Nations Economic Development Database](#) – a collection of First Nations economic development initiatives in BC, accessible through a user-friendly and searchable interface. It provides a single source of factual information about economic activity initiated by First Nations. It is a snapshot in time that can be extended to capture other information about the growth of BC First Nations economic development activity.

4) **Community Futures British Columbia Aboriginal Engagement Toolkit**
Community Futures



This toolkit provides information requested by Community Futures Managers, to assist them in better understanding the history and current environment impacting BC's Aboriginal peoples and to provide guidelines, proven effective by their peers, for relationship building. The toolkit also includes community economic development project best practices, which have been undertaken by Community Futures in partnership with Aboriginal peoples.

5) Early Aboriginal Engagement: A Guide for Proponents of Major Resource Projects Government of Canada

This guide to Early Aboriginal Engagement provides the proponents of major resource projects with information about the importance of early and meaningful engagement with Aboriginal peoples and groups (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit).

Aboriginally-authored Resources Available

Not all of these sites provide specific guidance on how to engage with aboriginal peoples, but they are all good sources of information for anyone genuinely interested in learning about aboriginal perspectives about a broad range of issues that form the foundation of aboriginal engagement.

1. www.ictinc.ca/
Bob Joseph provides corporate training on Indigenous Relations
2. www.purichpublishing.com/
Books written about Aboriginal consultation and related topics
3. www.culturalcompetency.ca/
Online cultural competency training
4. www.fourdirectionsteachings.com/main.html
Video provides info about indigenous knowledge and philosophy from five diverse First Nations
5. www.bcafn.ca/index.php
Excellent source of information on BC First Nations
6. www.afn.ca/index.php/en
Excellent source of information on Canadian First Nations
7. www.cbc.ca/news/politics/never-too-late-to-engage-aboriginal-groups-says-doug-eyford-1.2451972
A paper by Doug Eyford
8. www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/downloads/consultation-and-accomodation-report.pdf
Best Practices for Consultation and Accommodation, 2009

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