

Tips for Consultation & Engagement

Consultation Tips



Use the concept of Free, Prior & Informed Consent to assess the way in which your First Nation has been asked to participate in consultation activities.



Communicate what your First Nation's consultation needs and expectations are to industry / government (e.g. Consultation protocol, fees, information needs, technical assistance needed to understand, review and revise complex projects based on your interests).



Ask the proponents and/or government representatives to clearly outline what jurisdictions are involved in a project, what decisions need to be made, who will be making them and when.



Respond to letters and invitations for consultation events, even if you are not going to attend this is a good way to indicate initial interest in the project.



Ask for clear reporting from the proponent regarding how the feedback and input provided by the First Nation/Community will be factored into decision making (can also request EA follow up reporting).



Ask for the proponent to provide a list of action items resulting from any meetings or consultation events to ensure follow-through on commitments.



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Engagement Tips



Think of how the concept of Free, Prior & Informed Consent can inform how you conduct your engagement activities.



Make every effort to include those who will be affected by a decision. Be accessible; arrange for transportation, childcare and meals if you can.



Know your audience and what their engagement preferences are (when, where and how they prefer to be engaged).



Have an experienced facilitator who is familiar with the subject matter and community protocols lead the engagement.



Be clear about how feedback and input gathered will be factored into decision making.



Follow-up after you've consulted with your member with a "what we heard" report.



Acknowledge and honour the time and contributions of those who participate.



Follow-through on your commitments!