



Fast Facts

on First Nations Consultation

Fast Facts is Back!

We are pleased to bring you the fifth edition of *Fast Facts on First Nations Consultation*. *Fast Facts* is now published quarterly to provide you with ongoing updates on First Nations consultation in Alberta. We look forward to bringing you the latest information on Alberta's developing and emerging consultation initiative.

New Ministry – Renewed Commitment to Consultation

Alberta is proud to be home to one of the country's largest and youngest Aboriginal populations. The creation of the new Ministry of Aboriginal Relations in March of 2008 by Premier Stelmach recognized the important role of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Alberta's society and economy.

"We lead the development of government-wide strategies and policies that will enhance the capacity and well-being of Aboriginal people in Alberta," explains the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Aboriginal Relations.

Aboriginal Relations is often a key facilitator, building respectful relationships and collaborating with other ministries, industry, Aboriginal governments and organizations, and various stakeholders:

- Works with other government departments to support

the development of programs and policies that affect Aboriginal people in Alberta;

- Advises and sometimes leads agreements between the provincial government and Aboriginal groups;
- Administers Métis Settlements legislation;
- Supports economic development partnerships for Aboriginal communities;
- Helps resolve Aboriginal land-based issues; and
- Coordinates First Nation land and resource development consultations.



Consultation Policy Review

Alberta's *First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development* has been in effect since May 16, 2005. To ensure the consultation process is being implemented in a coordinated and efficient manner across the province, Alberta will soon be

conducting a review of the Policy with First Nations and industry.

In the 2005 Policy, Alberta committed to fully review the Policy four years after its release. The current Policy can be found on the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations website at www.aboriginal.alberta.ca. The review will begin in the fall of 2008, with the goal of releasing a revised Policy one year later in 2009.

Alberta's intent through the Policy review process is to ensure the province's approach to consultation remains flexible, beneficial to all Albertans, and provides for easier resolution of issues between First Nations, industry and government. In tandem with the Policy review, Alberta will also be undertaking an assessment of the *First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land Management and Resource Development*.

The 2007/08 Guidelines, also available at the Aboriginal Relations website, were released on November 14, 2007. The Guidelines provide a practical and efficient

process to implement the Policy and carry out Alberta's duty to consult with First Nations.

Developing Alberta's consultation strategy is an ongoing process. Alberta continues to work with both First Nations and industry as consultation evolves. The government constantly strives to build an effective First Nations consultation process for all parties in the province.

Aboriginal Relations leads Alberta's Aboriginal Consultation Initiative. The Ministries of Energy, Environment, Sustainable Resource Development and Culture and Community Spirit have developed ministry-specific Guidelines to facilitate the First Nations consultation process.



Alberta - First Nations Protocol Agreement

A watershed event in Alberta's relationship with the province's First Nations occurred on May 22, 2008

Consultation Contacts

Aboriginal Relations

Cory Enns, Director, Consultation and Land Claims	780-644-1055
Allan Pard, Senior Advisor, First Nation Consultation, Consultation and Land Claims	780-644-4987
Dennis Bell, Senior Manager, Regional Land Issues	780-427-0368
Ryan Tew, Consultation Manager, Consultation and Land Claims	780-644-4947
Lorne Fidgette, Consultation Manager, Consultation and Land Claims	780-427-2034
Shane Gauthier, Consultation Manager, Regional Land Issues	780-644-4653
Ashley Bodnar, Consultation Manager, Consultation and Land Claims	780-644-1036
Eric Davey, Consultation Manager, Consultation and Land Claims	780-644-4949
Tanya Holden, Consultation Officer, Consultation and Land Claims	780-644-1523
Greg Posein, Research Officer, Consultation and Land Claims	780-644-3030
Kenton Boutillier, Research Officer, Consultation and Land Claims	780-427-0567
Kimberly Watson, Research Officer, Consultation and Land Claims	780-427-9659
Gregory Bereza, Aboriginal Consultation Intern	780-643-1733
Terrance Flynn, Policy Coordinator, Consultation and Land Claims	780-644-1840

Energy

Cole Pederson, Director, Aboriginal Consultation	780-644-8173
Claire Foulds, Consultation Manager	780-422-9467
Warren Michael, Consultation Manager	780-427-8973
Alison Parry, Consultation Manager	780-422-7009

Sustainable Resource Development

Mark Storie, Team Lead, Consultation and Aboriginal Relations	780-644-5516
Colin Needham, Senior Resource Management Advisor, Peace River/High Level	780-624-7147
Randy Leal, Senior Resource Management Advisor, Calgary/Rocky Mountain House	403-297-5451
Henri Soulodre, Senior Resource Management Advisor, Slave Lake/Grande	

Prairie/Edson/Whitecourt,	780-849-7403
Ken Yackimec, Senior Resource Management Advisor, Lac La Biche/Fort McMurray	780-623-5326
Andy Masiuk, Senior Advisor, Edmonton	780-422-9498
John Belanger, Senior Advisor, Edmonton	780-644-2305
Amanda Tangedal, Resource Management Advisor, Edson/Whitecourt	780-723-8536
Tim Burggraaf, Resource Management Advisor, Fort McMurray	780-623-5455
Marcus Ruehl, Resource Management Advisor, High Level	780-926-7006
Jack McNaughton, Resource Management Advisor, Peace River	780-624-6551
Dion Lawrence, Resource Management Advisor, Grande Prairie	780-538-8097
Kurt Borzel, Resource Management Advisor, Slave Lake/High Prairie	780-523-6560
Neil Brad, Fish and Wildlife Consultation Advisor, Edmonton	780-644-8732
Keith Beraska, Lands Consultation Advisor, Edmonton	780-644-8734
Dave Coish, Forestry Consultation Advisor, Edmonton	780-644-8733

Culture and Community Spirit

Kathryn Coxson Aboriginal Consultation Adviser	780-431 2314
Blair First Rider Aboriginal Consultation Adviser (Cardston)	403-653 5104
Chris Harrison Aboriginal Consultation Adviser	780-431 2319
Erin McGregor Aboriginal Consultation Adviser	780-431 2309
Aaron Wilson Aboriginal Consultation Adviser	780-431 2352

Environment

Norman Calliou, Section Head, Aboriginal Relations	780-422-7898
Mark Calliou, Aboriginal Relations Manager, Edmonton	780-644-8365
Chris Van Tighem, Northern Region Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	780-427-2998
Karina Andrus, Northern Region Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	780-427-7660
Melanie Daniels, Central Region Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	403-755-6141
Crystal Stamp-Cardinal, Southern Region Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	403-297-4099
Chris T Dickson, Oil Sands Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	780-644-8366
Renata Bothwell, Policy and Implementation Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	780-644-6966
Joseph Jobin, Métis Relations Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	780-422-5619
Wendy Gazard Aboriginal Relations Policy Advisor	780-644-8590

when Premier Ed Stelmach, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, and the Grand Chiefs and Vice Chiefs of Treaty 6, 7 and 8 signed a historic *Protocol Agreement on Government to Government Relations*. The five-year Agreement established a formal process for engagement at a political level. The ground-breaking Protocol establishes a collaborative approach between Alberta and First Nations and provides a forum to address areas of mutual concern. Through the Protocol Agreement, the Grand Chiefs and Premier Stelmach will meet annually while Alberta's Ministers responsible for consultation with First Nations have committed to meet twice yearly to discuss key issues related to First Nations consultation in Alberta. Building relationships at the political level is a critical component of establishing and maintaining the mutual understanding and trust necessary to effectively address complex issues such as consultation.

A total of 47 First Nations in Alberta are signatories to Treaties 6, 7 and 8. To view the Protocol Agreement, please visit Aboriginal Relations' website at www.aboriginal.alberta.ca.



Alberta's Trilateral Process

Important consultation issues such as timelines, notification and First Nations capacity have challenged effective implementation of the Consultation Guidelines.

To clarify and resolve these key consultation issues, the province is proposing to lead a trilateral process between senior Alberta officials and First Nations and industry representatives. Alberta, First Nations and industry representatives are currently being selected to participate in this process. Once selected, they will form a tripartite committee to discuss key consultation issues. For more information on the trilateral process, please contact Mr. Dennis Bell, Senior Manager, Regional Land Issues, Aboriginal Relations, at (780) 427-0368, or toll free by first dialing 310-0000, and then the number.



Guidelines Training and Information Sessions

Alberta continues to provide training for government consultation staff as part of our ongoing efforts to continually improve the First Nations consultation process. The goal is to increase decision-making clarity and consistency for all staff involved in implementing Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines. In January 2008, Alberta held internal training sessions on the revised 2007/2008 Guidelines with consultation staff from Edmonton, Calgary and Peace River. Staff training sessions have been conducted since the Guidelines were first released in September 2006 and will continue as changes are made.

Following the internal sessions in April 2008, Alberta hosted several successful consultation information forums with First Nations and

industry participants from across the province. The sessions, held in Lac La Biche, Edmonton, Calgary, High Level and Peace River, gave Alberta, First Nations and industry representatives a unique opportunity to discuss successes and current challenges with consultation, strengthen relationships and discuss next steps in the consultation process. The sessions were valuable for gauging First Nations and industry feedback on the consultation process. Alberta thanks all who took part in the discussion forums.



Changing Faces of Consultation

On behalf of all Alberta government Aboriginal consultation staff, *Fast Facts* bids a fond farewell to Dennis Driscoll and thanks him for his contributions to Alberta's consultation initiative. Dennis has been a fixture in the initiative for three years as the head of Sustainable Resource Development's (SRD) Consultation and Aboriginal Relations Unit. May 16, 2008 marked the end of Dennis' illustrious career with SRD after 32 years of public service in the Alberta government.

Dennis hails from Ontario, but came to Alberta in the 1970s. He began his career here with the Alberta Forest Service in 1976. As a Forest Ranger, Dennis and his family made stops in High Level, Kinuso, Wabasca, Slave Lake, Whitecourt and Fox Creek. In 1995, he moved to Edmonton to become Alberta's Forest Management Supervisor. Then in 2005, Dennis rose to the management ranks, first as a Senior Advisor, and later as the team Lead with the

SRD's Consultation and Aboriginal Relations Unit.

Whether working with First Nations people, industry and government promoting Aboriginal consultation or managing Alberta's forests and natural resources, Dennis has a long and distinguished record of serving Albertans and will be missed. All the best, Dennis, and watch out for those sand traps!

Mark Storie is the new head of SRD's Consultation and Aboriginal Relations Unit. Welcome aboard Mark.

Please also welcome Dennis Bell in his new role as Senior Manager, Regional Land Issues, with Aboriginal Relations. Dennis will be responsible for leading several innovative new initiatives in consultation, including the trilateral process, as well as assisting with implementing the overall initiative. Dennis originally came to Aboriginal Relations in January 2008 on an Executive Mobility placement through the Alberta government and has been conducting research on the Aboriginal law context. Prior to this, since 2003, he was the Director of Vehicle Safety at Alberta Transportation. Dennis holds degrees in English and Law and has worked for the British Columbia and Manitoba governments, as well as consulting internationally in Vietnam, Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan. Married with two children, Dennis lives in sunny St. Albert.



What do you think of our new *Consultation Fast Facts* bulletin?

This new bulletin is one way for us to let you know the latest on Consultation. What do you think? And how would you like to hear from us in future: Some have asked for information by mail; others prefer email. **Please call us at 780-427-2034 to tell us how you'd like to receive our bulletin and to give us your feedback.**

