



Fast Facts

on First Nations Consultation

AN UPDATE

Consultation Framework & Guidelines

The Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development was approved by Cabinet on May 16, 2005. Alberta is now working with First Nations and industry to develop a Framework for Consultation Guidelines to establish principles with which all future Guidelines must be consistent.

The Framework is intended to define Alberta's role in the consultation process, to set out the Government's expectations of its departments, industry and First Nations, and to address specific questions about how consultation should occur.

During Guidelines development, the Government invites First Nations and industry to engage in dialogue to help us build an effective and efficient consultation process. We are aiming to have a final draft Framework prepared for distribution in March 2006.

Until Guidelines are completed, the Government's Interim Approach is intended to clarify

expectations for fall and winter resource development. In the meantime, the Government of Alberta expects all parties to be aware of the Policy and to make efforts to meet the expectations set out in the Policy.

We look forward to continued discussion and collaboration with you on the Framework. To read the draft, please visit AAND's website, click "Consultation Initiative", then "Draft Framework." We invite your feedback by February 28, 2006. ❖

A QUICK HISTORY

Consultation Policy

JAN-FEB '06: AAND seeks feedback on draft Framework by Feb. 28, 2006. To read it, visit www.aand.gov.ab.ca, click "Consultation Initiative", then "Draft Framework."

NOV '05: Interim Approach is completed. Visit www.aand.gov.ab.ca, click "Consultation Initiative", then "Interim Approach".

MAY 16, '05: Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development is approved. (Click link on bottom right of homepage at www.aand.gov.ab.ca)

Community Discussions on the Framework

Discussions with First Nations are underway with

- Treaty 8 through the Joint Technical Committee;
- individual Treaty 7 Tribes; and
- the Treaty 6 Confederacy to define an appropriate way to engage Treaty 6 in further discussions on our consultation approach.

Discussions with industry are underway with a representative Industry Guidelines Advisory Group and the Industry Advisory Committee.

To give your feedback on the Framework, call one of AAND's Consultation Contacts (listed below) by February 28, 2006. ❖

Check out AAND's updated website at www.aand.gov.ab.ca. From the homepage, click on "Consultation Initiative" (under "Key Ministry Information"), to read the latest on Consultation.

Who (& What) is New at AAND?

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development is pleased to welcome Bill Werry as new Executive Director of Consultation. His role includes leading the Resource Consultation and Traditional Use Team, chairing meetings of the Consultation Coordinating Group, and coordinating the design and implementation of consultation processes. Great to have you, Bill!



Bill Werry, new Executive Director of Resource Consultation.

- Brian McGuigan is now Senior Policy Advisor and industry liaison for consultation.
- Dr. Robert Simon is now the Manager of Strategic Economic Initiatives program for FNEPI (First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative).
- Warren Michael is Policy Coordinator under the new First Nations Relations branch. ❖

CONSULTATION CONTACTS:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

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AN UPDATE

Traditional Use Studies

One concept guiding successful implementation of Alberta's Consultation Policy is the need to understand First Nations' use of the landscape. Effective consultation will recognize that the use of land for purposes such as ceremonies and gathering, and constitutionally protected rights to hunt, trap and fish are important to the exercise of First Nations rights and traditional uses. Thus, Alberta has been working with First Nations to complete traditional use studies (TUS) across the province.

TUS projects are underway in 39 of 47 First Nations. Nine studies have been completed and 12 have signed data-sharing agreements. For more information about the TUS program, contact Jamie Honda-McNeil at 780-427-0368.

So far, six First Nations have asked the GOA to integrate traditional use sites into its Listing of Significant Historical Sites and Areas or Land Status Automated System.

In an effort to protect traditional use sites, a number of First Nations have begun to share information about their traditional use of the land with Alberta. The departments

of Community Development (ACD) and Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) are looking for effective ways to integrate this information appropriately into our land management systems. So far, six First Nations have asked Alberta to integrate sites into Alberta Community Development's Listing of Significant Historical Sites and Areas, or into the Province's Land Status Automated System. These systems provide for confidentiality of the information, assure that these important sites are protected from development activities, and ensure that First Nations will be consulted regarding these sites should development threaten to impact them.

For more info on this initiative, please contact Dr. Jack Ives, ACD, at (780) 431-2302, or Dennis Driscoll, SRD, at (780) 644-5516. ❖

Wetlands Policy

In June 2005, the Alberta Water Council established the Wetland Policy Project Team to develop recommendations and an implementation plan for a GOA Wetlands Policy. (Development of a wetlands policy and implementation plan was identified as a key action item in the *Water for Life* strategy to help achieve the goal of healthy aquatic ecosystems.)

The Project Team has undertaken two rounds of consultation with stakeholders to obtain input and advice about their perceptions, expectations, and ideas for successful implementation of a wetlands policy.

Consultation with Aboriginal communities has begun. A consultant has been hired to meet with First Nations and Métis communities, and to arrange roundtable sessions around the province (background info has already been sent out). Advice and input obtained from the Aboriginal communities will be used by the Project Team to frame the policy and plan. For more information on development of this policy and plan, contact Henry Arcand at 780-915-3680. ❖

First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative

The Government of Alberta's First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative (FNEPI) is underway. FNEPI is promoting First Nations participation in the Alberta economy. AAND's FNEPI unit is now fully staffed and funding applications for First Nations initiatives are being processed. The three interrelated programs are described at right:

Program 1: *Regional Partnership Development (RPD) Program.* Currently, AAND has approved partnership agreements with five First Nations Tribal Councils and one unaffiliated First Nation to fund the hiring of Regional Economic Partnership Coordinators (REPCs). The REPCs, or "centres of negotiation," will work to maximize the funding and programs available from all levels of government for the First Nations in their region. REPCs will also promote partnerships between First Nations and industry and expand the First Nations private sector in their region. AAND's Janene Blenkhorn, RPD Program Manager, provides central support for the REPCs. Contact Janene at (780) 422-8979.

Program 2: The Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI) grant program is investing in strategically placed First Nations/industry partnerships to bring about the economic initiatives negotiated in Program 1. Contact Dr. Robert Simon, SEI Program Manager, at (780) 644-1035.

Program 3: Research is under way in the *Economic Capacity Building (ECB) Program* to identify an inventory of First Nations and industry economic capacity-building "best practices." This inventory will set the basis for strategic direction for developing ECB training tools for the coordinators to deliver, and for data management tools and a learning/mentorship network throughout the province. Contact Marnie Robb, ECB Program Manager, at (780) 427-5071. ❖

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

Consultation Fast Facts is one way for us to let you know the latest on Consultation. What do you think? And how would like to hear from us in future? Some have asked for information by mail; others prefer email. **Please call us at (780) 644-4945 to tell us how you'd like to receive our bulletin and to give us your feedback.**

