



The Corporate-Indigenous Relations Council - Spring Members' Meeting

Co-Host:



In conjunction with



Meeting Agenda

May 28 & 29, 2025, Kelowna, BC

This event is fully hosted by the **Corporate-Indigenous Relations Council** and our co-host, **BC Hydro**. A special thank you to BC Hydro for their generous support in planning and making this event possible.

Theme: “Consultation and Community Engagement: Harmonizing Approaches to FPIC”

Synopsis: Join us for an engaging meeting that centers on the process of navigating Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) across various sectors. As we witness FPIC's growing impact, this session will look at the critical roles we can all play in fostering progress. We will do this by, among other things, unpacking the complex negotiations involving industry proponents, Indigenous governments and hereditary leaders, and non-Indigenous governments. We will learn about creative and innovative practices that can help build deeper collaboration, consensus, and new ways of working together. By focusing on the implementation of FPIC through a holistic, multi-sector lens, we're committed to crafting a narrative that is not only informed and respectful but also actionable and forward-thinking.

Meeting Location and Accommodations:

Prestige Beach House Kelowna, 1675 Abbott St, Kelowna, BC V1Y 1A9

This meeting will be held on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded *tr̓ixʷúlaʔxʷ* (land) of the Syilx / Okanagan people who have resided here since time immemorial. We recognize, honour, and respect the Syilx / Okanagan lands upon which we live, work, and play.



What is tr̄mxʷúlaʔxʷ?

tr̄mxʷúlaʔxʷ means the land and everything that lives and interacts on it. It is an all-encompassing word that expresses the intersectionality of land and nature.

One Language. One Land. One Culture. One People. Learn more about the Syilx Okanagan, including the Sinixt through their [website](#).

Onsite Contacts:

Marta Bristow, Senior Council Manager
bristow@conferenceboard.ca

Jennifer Iorgulescu, Meeting Coordinator
jiorgulescu@conferenceboard.ca

Please note that our Council meetings are held under the **Chatham House Rule**: When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the **Chatham House Rule**, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Source: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/chatham-house-rule>.

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

7:30 p.m. **Optional Networking Social**

We invite all attendees to meet for an informal networking social the night before the event officially begins. This optional gathering offers a great opportunity to connect with fellow attendees in a relaxed atmosphere and build relationships ahead of the meeting.

Please note that participation is entirely optional, and any costs incurred during the social (food, drinks, etc.) will be the responsibility of individual attendees.

The group will meet in the hotel lobby at 7:30 pm.

Location: Prestige Beach House Hotel, Kelowna



Day 1 - Wednesday, May 28, 2025

8:15 a.m. –

9:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast**

Please join us for a buffet breakfast. Breakfast will be set up inside the meeting room.

9:00 a.m. –

9:10 a.m. **Opening Prayer**

Elder Eleanor Eli

9:10 a.m. –

9:25 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Stefan Fournier, Executive Director, Indigenous and Northern Communities, Immigration and Sustainability, The Conference Board of Canada

Marta Bristow, Senior Council Manager, The Conference Board of Canada

9:25 a.m. –

10:00 a.m. **Opening Keynote**

Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band, Tribal Chair, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Member of BCH Board of Directors

10:00 a.m. –

10:45 a.m. **Roundtable Introductions**

Let's take a moment to introduce ourselves and get to know each other better. We invite each attendee to share their name, title, and organization, along with a personal insight. This could be anything that helps us connect—such as your favorite book, a memorable place you've traveled to, or a fun fact about yourself.

10:45 a.m. –

11:00 a.m. **Networking Break**



11:00 a.m. –
12:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Seeking Free, Prior, and Informed Consent by Way of a Commitment to Relationship-Centered Collaboration and Partnerships

This panel will highlight three distinct examples where BC Hydro and First Nations have agreed to a relationship-centred approach to working together. Each example will be discussed by a BC Hydro and a First Nations partner. Through these co-delivered presentations, the panel members will discuss progress made, challenges along the way, and what lies ahead as the parties continue along a pathway towards greater trust-building and long-term partnerships.

BC Hydro Participants:

Jim Scouras, Former Senior Manager, Indigenous Relations
Patrick Tomlinson, Project Manager, Strategy and Negotiations Team

First Nations Participants:

Jay Johnson, Negotiator, Okanagan Nation Alliance
Kwatuuma Cole Sayers, Executive Director, Clean Energy Association of British Columbia (CEBC)

12:00 p.m. –
1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch

1:00 p.m. –
2:30 p.m.

FPIC in Practice: Navigating Real-World Challenges in Business Engagement

The passing of UNDRIPA in 2021—legislation that aims to ensure Canadian laws align with the principles of UNDRIP—has enhanced FPIC's normative and legal weight as well as its influence over the Crown's duty to consult in Canada. This session will explore how FPIC is approached in complex, real-world business decision-making, and the practical challenges companies face in implementing FPIC.

By fostering an open dialogue that explores business realities and interests alongside the needs and rights of Indigenous peoples, participants will gain insights on how to better work together in developing informed and responsible engagement strategies that support mutually beneficial outcomes.



Through real-world scenarios, we'll discuss the challenges and options for:

- Engaging with hereditary leaders and understanding their role in decision-making;
- Understanding and navigating situations where a band council provides consent, but the decision is not supported by other groups in a community or First Nation;
- Addressing the challenges that can arise for both Indigenous groups and businesses when there are overlapping traditional territories;
- Working through the complexity associated with the Crown's role and the broader regulatory regime within the context of FPIC and contemporary corporate-Indigenous relations.

Facilitator: Patrick Kelly - T'esóts'en, Indigenous Relations Consultant

2:30 p.m. –

2:45 pm **Break**

2:45 p.m. –

3:15 p.m. **Dance Performance, Spotted Horse Entertainment**

Nadine Jules

Joe Lee Meldrum

Special thanks to BC Hydro co-hosting this event. Their generous support and planning helped to make this special event possible, and we are very grateful for their partnership.

3:15 p.m. –

4:15 p.m. **Legal Update**

Sandra Gogal, Partner, Cassels

4:15 p.m. –

5:45 p.m. **Break**



5:45 p.m. –

9:00 p.m. **Informal Networking Excursion**

Join us for a special evening of networking in a relaxed setting. We'll begin with a wine tasting (mocktails will also be available) at **Quails' Gate Winery**, followed by an informal networking dinner at **19 Okanagan Grill & Bar** in Westbank First Nation.

Agenda:

- **5:45 p.m.** – Meet in the hotel lobby and board the bus (transportation provided)
- **6:05 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** – Wine Tasting at Quails' Gate Winery
- **7:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.** – Travel to 19 Okanagan Grill & Bar
- **7:15 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.** – Informal Networking Dinner
- **8:40 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** – Bus returns to Prestige Beach House Hotel

Thursday, May 29, 2025

8:15 a.m. –

9:00 a.m. **Informal Networking Breakfast**

Please join us for a buffet breakfast. Breakfast will be set up inside the meeting room.

9:00 a.m. –

9:05 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Marta Bristow, Senior Council Manager, The Conference Board of Canada



9:05 a.m.–

10:15 a.m.

FPIC in Action: Practical Approaches to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a foundational principle for responsible resource development, but how does it work in practice? This panel brings together industry leaders to share real-world examples of how they navigate FPIC in project development. Panelists will discuss challenges, successes, and lessons learned in building meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities. Attendees will gain insights into best practices for consultation, negotiation, and long-term relationship-building that align with both regulatory expectations and community interests.

Ian Jacobsen, Director, Indigenous Relations, Ontario Power Generation

Leah Manson, Team Lead, Strategy and Negotiations Team, BC Hydro

Mélanie Corriveau, Director, Community Relations, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

10:15 a.m.–

10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m.–

11:15 a.m.

Advancing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in Canada: Guidance on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is leading the implementation of measure 32 from the Shared Priorities chapter of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan. This measure calls for developing guidance on engaging with Indigenous peoples on natural resource projects in order to obtain their FPIC. This session will provide an overview of the policy drivers for implementing this measure and present four options that are currently being considered for guidance. The speakers look forward to discussing how guidance on FPIC could further enable recognition of the Indigenous right to self-determination, the pursuit of regulatory efficiency and effectiveness, and investment certainty in the natural resources sector.

Donna Mandeville, Director General, Natural Resources Canada

Henry Schut, Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Canada



11:15 a.m. –

12:00 p.m. Facilitated Discussion

This facilitated discussion will offer participants an opportunity to revisit some of the main themes of the meeting, and to dig deeper into the topics based on what they have learned. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn from one another and share their own expertise, practices and insights.

Guiding discussion questions:

- What, for you, was your most important learning or takeaway from the meeting?
- Given what we have heard and learned over the course of the meeting, what do you feel are the best practices you can integrate to help advance economic reconciliation and respond to [call to action #92](#) within your organization?

Stefan Fournier, Executive Director, Indigenous and Northern Communities, Immigration and Sustainability, The Conference Board of Canada

12:00 p.m. –

1:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned / Break Before Afternoon Excursion

1:00 p.m. –

2:30 p.m. Mission Creek Tour

Join us for a guided tour of Mission Creek, where we'll explore a habitat restoration site supported by Westbank First Nation. Learn about the ongoing salmon restoration efforts and the vital role this project plays in environmental stewardship and ecosystem renewal.

Special thanks to BC Hydro co-hosting this event. Their generous support and planning helped to make this special event possible, and we are very grateful for their partnership.

Agenda:

- **1:00 p.m.** – Meet in the hotel lobby and board the bus (transportation provided)
- **1:10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.** – Guided tour of Mission Creek
- **2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** – Bus returns to Prestige Beach House Hotel



The Corporate-Indigenous Relations Council

The Conference Board of Canada's Corporate-Indigenous Relations Council (CIRC) was founded in 1994. It is an executive network with a mandate to contribute to economic reconciliation and to create equitable, productive, and collaborative corporate-Indigenous relations. It fosters honest dialogue between senior-level representatives from public, private, and Indigenous organizations in a confidential venue. Members work together to find practical solutions to common challenges and opportunities.

Corporate-Indigenous Relations Council – Advisory Committee Members

- **Sandra Gogal**, Partner, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP
- **Sandra Cardinal**, Director, Aboriginal Affairs, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
- **Mélanie Corriveau**, Director, Community Relations, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
- **Michael Bonshor**, Board Member, National Indigenous Economic Development Board
- **Andrew Willet**, Director, Sustainability and Indigenous Relations, J.D. Irving Limited
- **Ian Bower**, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Office of L'nu Affairs
- **Brittanee Laverdure**, Director, RBC Origins Truth & Reconciliation, RBC
- **Heidi Martin**, Research Manager, Indigenous Services Canada
- **Andrea Riches**, Human Resources Director, Global Supply, Chain and Fleet, Clearwater Seafoods Inc.
- **Mike LoVecchio**, Director, Government Affairs, Canadian Pacific Kansas City

UNDRIP Virtual Series Advisory Committee Members

- **David Newhouse**, Professor, Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies, Trent University
- **Brenda Gunn**, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba
- **Denise Pothier**, Chief Operating Officer, Canadian Council for Indigenous Business

CIRC Members

- AECON Group Inc.
- Agnico Eagle Mines
- Alamos Gold Inc.
- Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation
- Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
- Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
- Atura Power
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- British Columbia Lottery Corp.
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- Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology
- Det'ón Cho Corp.
- Edmonton International Airport
- Electricity Canada
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Enbridge Inc.
- Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario
- First Nations Major Projects Coalition
- First Nations Financial Management Board
- Gibson Energy Ltd.
- Hydro One Inc.
- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- Imperial Oil Ltd.
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Indigenous Tourism Alberta
- JD Irving Ltd.
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- Joint Economic Development Initiative
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- Nova Scotia Office of L'nu Affairs
- Nova Scotia Power Inc.
- Nuclear Waste Management Organization
- ON Ministry of Indigenous Relations and First Nations Economic Reconciliation
- Ontario Power Generation Inc.
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