

# ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

## FACT SHEET



The future of the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project rests with the communities of the North. We are committed to working with Aboriginal groups along the pipeline route to create meaningful economic opportunities and to incorporate traditional knowledge into the planning and operations of the project.

Enbridge has a long history of working with Aboriginal groups and has put in place a detailed Aboriginal policy that identifies paths to mutual success. We have embraced a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples across Canada and recognize Aboriginal rights.

Through implementation of the Aboriginal engagement program, Northern Gateway is committed to working with Aboriginal groups to provide them with information about the Project, answer project-related questions, identify and address issues and concerns, and obtain community input for incorporation into project planning activities and the environmental and socio-economic assessment (ESA).

Information gathered through the Aboriginal engagement program will enable Northern Gateway to improve the Project by avoiding, reducing or mitigating, wherever reasonable and feasible, potential adverse effects of the Project and enhancing positive effects of the Project on Aboriginal interests.

### Design of the Aboriginal Engagement Program

Northern Gateway's Aboriginal engagement<sup>1</sup> program is designed to build and maintain effective working relationships with Aboriginal groups who may be affected by the Project. The objectives of the program are to:

- identify and engage Aboriginal groups or Métis regions located within 80 km of the project corridor and the Kitimat Terminal or whose traditional territory may overlap with the project corridor (the engagement area)
- understand the interest in project engagement of Aboriginal groups located outside the engagement area
- provide timely information about the Project to facilitate meaningful opportunities for input into project planning, design, construction and operations
- initiate opportunities for Aboriginal groups to share their traditional knowledge of lands potentially affected by the Project and to identify interests and concerns regarding the Project
- provide information on the ways in which Aboriginal group concerns have been considered, taken into account or acted on, as appropriate, by Northern Gateway in the design and planning, design, construction and operations of the Project
- engage in ongoing dialogue with Aboriginal groups throughout the various stages of the Project
- enter into protocol or capacity agreements, as well as other agreements related to the Project
- provide Aboriginal groups with opportunities to derive sustainable benefits from project-related activities that arise throughout project development, construction and operations
- enable Northern Gateway to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects and enhance positive effects of the Project on Aboriginal interests wherever reasonable and feasible

*1 Aboriginal engagement refers broadly to the contact, communication and consultation efforts with Aboriginal groups.*

### Principles and Goals for Aboriginal Engagement

The goal of the Aboriginal engagement program is to inform, educate, engage and learn from participating Aboriginal groups in the planning, design and construction of the Project, by providing transparent information that addresses Aboriginal group concerns. This includes information related to environmental stewardship and Northern Gateway's plan to establish sustainable community benefits and economic business opportunities in Aboriginal communities.

Northern Gateway's Aboriginal engagement program is based on principles to:

- engage Aboriginal groups early in the development of the Project and continue engagement through the regulatory process, as well as during and after construction
- provide Aboriginal groups with project information in a timely and culturally sensitive manner so they can consider the information when determining their interests in the Project
- provide opportunities for Aboriginal groups to identify issues and concerns and provide input
- provide opportunities for Northern Gateway to respond to issues and concerns to avoid, reduce or mitigate, as appropriate, effects of the Project on Aboriginal interests and where appropriate, increase benefits to the group to address such effects
- provide opportunities for Aboriginal groups to identify environmental effects of the Project on Aboriginal interests
- provide opportunities for Aboriginal groups to assess the effects of the Project on traditional use
- facilitate an understanding of the results of the environmental assessment process
- identify and pursue Aboriginal group participation in the Project through community and economic development initiatives
- provide capacity funding to assist Aboriginal groups meet these principles and also to support their participation in the regulatory and environmental assessment process

In applying these principles and goals to Aboriginal engagement, Northern Gateway has been mindful to respect cultural differences among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, varying levels of capacity among Aboriginal groups along the project corridor, and the need for fair treatment relative to issues such as project benefits.

Throughout all phases of the Project, Aboriginal groups are encouraged to provide comment on all aspects of Northern Gateway's project planning, design, construction and operations.