

Early engagement and effective consensus-seeking under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*

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EAO

Environmental
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Factors for Success

Good relationships formed in pre-Application

Participants felt engaged + opportunities

Strong relationship with Indigenous nations, government-to-government focus

Projects and proponents that were ready to enter the process

Early identification of issues

Environmental Assessment Process (2018)

SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS FROM EARLY ENGAGEMENT TO POST-CERTIFICATE

Timelines



Seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations throughout the process



Consensus with nations....

- Is a core feature of the legislation;
- Is a cooperative process;
- Informs the decisions of both provincial and Indigenous governments;
- Allows for the indication of the support or not for a decision; and
- Does not limit a nation to ultimately indicate their consent or not for a project.

Recommendations - proponents

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| ✓ Be relationship focused | ✓ Provide adequate funding for nations | ✓ Be culturally-sensitive and trauma-informed |
| ✓ Engage widely | ✓ Come to the process ready to listen | ✓ Choose design options through engagement |
| ✓ Understand the legislation | ✓ Provide high quality materials | ✓ Use experienced consultants |

Learnings - regulators

Listen closely to nations

Determine issues early and seek resolution

Prepare participants and proponents well

Avoid acronyms and other jargon, use plain language

Avoid surprises

Provide clear workplans, guidance and expectations

Projects in Early Engagement (BC)

- Five projects have completed Early Engagement:
 - Cariboo Gold, Deltaport Expansion Berth 4, Fording River Extension, Tilbury Phase 2 LNG Expansion, Ksi Lisims
- Three more projects are in Early Engagement
- One community advisory committee has been formed and is in progress

Resources for more information

- [Early Engagement Policy](#)
- [EA Act Revitalization - Intentions Paper](#)
- [Information for 2018 Act](#)
- [Guide to Consensus-Seeking](#)
- [EAO Project Information Centre](#)