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

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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
- Legislated Time
- EAO Time
- Proponent Time
- Public Engagement & Comment Period

Seek consensus with participating Indigenous nations throughout the process

- Early Engagement
  - EA Readiness Decision
  - Process Planning
    - Application Development & Review
    - Effects Assessment
    - Recommendation
  - Decision
    - Post Certificate
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

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<tr>
<th>Checkmark</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🔄 Be relationship focused</td>
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<td>🔄 Provide adequate funding for nations</td>
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<td>🔄 Be culturally-sensitive and trauma-informed</td>
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<td>🔄 Engage widely</td>
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<td>🔄 Come to the process ready to listen</td>
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<td>🔄 Choose design options through engagement</td>
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<td>🔄 Understand the legislation</td>
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<td>🔄 Provide high quality materials</td>
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<td>🔄 Use experienced consultants</td>
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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