

METIS SETTLEMENTS OF ALBERTA CONSULTATION CONTACTS

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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CONSULTATIONS WITH METIS SETTLEMENTS

OUR LAND
OUR CULTURE
OUR FUTURE



Government
of Canada



WHAT IS CONSULTATION?

The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) has said that the Crown has a “Duty to Consult” with communities whose rights may be impacted by Crown decisions. This means that when the Government of Canada makes decisions about Crown Lands, and these decisions have the potential to negatively impact Metis Settlement members’ ability to continue exercising their rights to hunt, fish, trap, gather and carry out their traditional land uses, the Crown must first consult with the settlements to try to minimize or avoid the impacts.

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS DOES THE GOVERNMENT CONSULT ON?

The Government of Canada is responsible for decision-making about the following kinds of activities:

- Inter-provincial pipelines
- Nuclear power projects
- Disposal of or modification to federal Crown Lands (i.e. military, parks etc.)
- Creation or modification of national parks
- Decisions affecting navigable waters
- Environmental assessments (federal)
- Other decisions made under federal legislation or regulations that may adversely impact Aboriginal rights.

The Government of Canada also consults or engages with indigenous communities when they are considering making changes to legislation, regulations or policy that might negatively impact the community's ability to continue practicing their rights and culture on Crown Land.

For decades our Metis Settlements have had our history and practices passed down from generation to generation through oral tradition. Our communities live close to the land and have immense knowledge of the landscape and the traditions that help make up our culture. This knowledge relates to both individual and collective relationships to the land and the resources. If we fail to document our traditions, they will be lost. We must strive to document our history and tradition to better support our leadership on the process of consultation and accommodation.

The federal government must consult with our communities if our Metis rights may be impacted by federal government decisions. Gathering, compiling and documenting information, like traditional land use studies, is important for the consultation process and can only be done through the assistance and support of settlement members.

WHAT IS TRADITIONAL LAND USE STUDY (TLUS)?

It is the story of life on the land that communicates the history, current use and occupancy of a territory and the resources drawn from that territory.

WHY SHOULD WE DO TRADITIONAL LAND USE STUDIES (TLUS)?

It will enable our settlements to be more involved in Government decision-making concerning Crown land and resource management on our traditional lands.

Studies are conducted to support:

- Identified traditional cultural practices.
- Sustaining the culture and identity of the community.
- Documentation of oral history before further knowledge is lost.
- Determination of shared areas of traditional use among communities.
- Developing baseline data so that changes to the land and environment, as a result of resource development, can be measured.
- Improving industry’s awareness of the impacts development can have on traditional uses.
- Creation of historical evidence to support claims, compensation processes, negotiations and participation in resource management.
- Claim Settlements.
- Asserting harvesting rights.
- Protection of specific traditional land use sites (e.g. berry patches).
- Consultation on development projects (e.g. Pipelines).
- Opportunities for capacity development, which supports self-reliance.

OTHER USES FOR TRADITIONAL LAND USE STUDIES (TLUS)

Good quality data can also be used to support other projects and goals in the following areas:

- Protecting Metis rights
 - Enables the Alberta Metis Settlements to assert and protect Indigenous rights under Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982)
 - To protect the rights of individual members who practice traditional land-use (e.g. hunting, fish trapping, and gathering) on our traditional lands.
- Land Management
 - Help support environmental monitoring
 - Help in Land Management area of important traditional use and occupancy
 - Provide evidence and support for claiming indigenous rights in hunting fishing land claims and other traditional Pursuits.

For more information about consultation, please contact your settlement Council or Consultation Coordinator.

