

Guiding Principles for Community Collaboration

Below are guiding principles to support mining organizations to continue to build and sustain meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities.



Respect Land Claims, Treaties and Self-Determination of Indigenous Nations

Indigenous relationships to the land are protected and mediated through land claims, treaties and the right to self-determination. Recognize and honour Indigenous rights and government and support their strengthening through land-based projects and related engagement with Indigenous leaders.



Build Relationships Through Trust

Take the time required to establish and maintain trust with Indigenous community members, leaders and government, as this is essential to forming working relationships that support collaboration.



Practice Transparency and Accountability

Share all motivations, intentions, and information with all parties from the outset. Clearly outline roles and responsibilities so that collaborators are accountable for collective and individual decisions and outcomes.



Support Reciprocity and Shared Benefits

Embrace reciprocity by giving all knowledge systems equal consideration and building common ground to support mutual learning. Acknowledge that communities can be at a disadvantage due to lack of resources and capacity and strive to balance power disparities between all collaborative partners.



Recognize Indigenous Relationships to the Land

Indigenous peoples have inhabited the area now known as Canada from time immemorial. Acknowledge and respect this relationship to the land which is rooted in a commitment to stewardship, as well as in Indigenous spirituality, worldviews and cultures.



Collaborate and Share Decision-Making

Share decision-making, acknowledging that Indigenous peoples are equal partners in land and resource knowledge and management. Engage in full, sustained partnerships, based in reconciliation, that encompass economic, social, cultural and spiritual dimensions beginning with designing the project and continuing through to completion and ideally beyond, with relationships maintained even after the project has ended.



Commit to Open Communication

Establish a process for frequent, ongoing accessible communication among all parties, including community members. Commit to being available to address concerns and information requests as they emerge.



Identify Shared Interests

At the outset of collaborative efforts, all partners – including community members – should articulate and agree upon the goals, values and processes to be used. Recognize the community's priorities and support these as central to the project.

