

# Guide: Engagement with Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and urban Indigenous communities

## 1. Purpose

This guide is provided to help the applicant better understand the expectations for engagement with the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), and with urban Indigenous communities. The practices outlined within this guide represent the **minimum standards** to foster respectful and responsive approaches to communications with the local Nations and urban Indigenous organisations and communities. It is by no means complete or exhaustive.

The intent of this guide is to assist the applicant in fulfilling the rezoning and development condition(s) related to engaging with the local Nations and urban Indigenous communities. Always refer to the rezoning and development condition(s) specific to the application for complete information.

## 2. Background

The City of Vancouver is on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. The local Nations have existed and stewarded these lands since time immemorial and continue to hold unique connections and rights in these territories. Vancouver is also home to the second-largest urban Indigenous population in Canada, representing a diversity of Indigenous Peoples from across the continent.

The City is committed to advancing the distinct rights and priorities of the local Nations, as well as Indigenous Peoples from other nations who live in Vancouver. The [Reconciliation Framework](#) (adopted in 2014) is the City's long-term commitment to strengthen understanding and relationships with the local Nations and urban Indigenous organisations and communities. Through inter-governmental collaboration and dialogue, the City's [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\) Strategy](#) (approved in 2022) was

co-developed and sets out recommendations for actions and initiatives to support, uphold, and recognise Indigenous rights. These commitments are reflected in City plans and guiding documents that integrate Indigenous perspectives in planning and decision-making processes to advance reconciliation efforts and reflect the long and rich Indigenous history of this place that makes us all proud to be uniquely 'Vancouver'.

### 3. Requirements

- i. A **detailed engagement summary** to be submitted for review to the Development, Buildings and Licensing delegate in consultation with the Senior Director of Indigenous Relations prior to the development permit application decision. See Appendix A – *ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY: MUSQUEAM INDIAN BAND, SQUAMISH NATION, TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION, AND URBAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES* template.

The submitted detailed engagement summary will be provided to the local Nations.

### 4. Protocol and Practices

#### a) Engagement Approach

When planning how to engage, communicate, and meet with the local Nations and urban Indigenous organisations and communities, the applicant should endeavour to establish and maintain a respectful relationship to foster mutual trust and understanding. Effective relationship-building requires consistent and genuine efforts to listen, learn, and adapt to the needs and perspectives of the communities involved. Indigenous communities may have specific protocols or practices that differ from those outlined in this guide. It is imperative that the applicant remains adaptable and responsive to these requests, even if it requires adjusting timelines, processes, or expectations. Approaches that incorporate flexibility should be noted in the engagement summary provided by the applicant for review of the City.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they complete their due diligence and research the publicly available guiding documents, such as policy and plans of the respective local Nations to inform their approach and engagement goals. The applicant is encouraged to prepare multiple engagement options for consideration within their project for discussion with local Nations and urban Indigenous engagement participants, maintaining a balance between clarity and the ability to collaboratively iterate on core opportunities.

b) Time frames

To foster opportunities for meaningful engagement when inviting participation and comments, the following are minimum standards. To allow for respectful timelines, additional time should be considered based on application complexity and level of desired engagement.

A formal request should be submitted **at least 60 days in advance** of a desired response from Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. The request process may differ between the local Nations, so it is important to refer to their individual websites for information. ***A lack of response from a local Nation within the standard time frame does not constitute a deferral of rights or interest by that Nation to engage or intervene on any given application.*** Should a response not be received, the applicant should outline respectful outreach efforts, including details such as type and timing of outreach in their engagement summary report. The applicant should make every effort to accommodate responses received prior to the development permit application decision.

For urban Indigenous organisations and communities, requests should be submitted **at least 45 days in advance** of a desired response. A broad range of urban Indigenous organisations, communities and groups should be considered to provide a fair opportunity to contribute and benefit from opportunities.

c) Capacity Funding

To reflect the voices, values and expertise of the local Nations and urban Indigenous organisations and communities, appropriate amounts of capacity funding and honoraria should be available to offset the costs of participating and providing comment on the application. The applicant is encouraged to contact the local Nations directly for their fee schedule.

d) Anti-racism, Decolonization and Cultural Safety

All applicant members participating in the engagement process that involves contact with the local Nations and urban Indigenous organisations and communities are expected to have relevant experience or anti-racism, decolonisation, and Indigenous cultural safety training. This builds foundational understanding of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous history, Indigenous-specific racism, and the dynamics of proper respectful relations. It is the responsibility of the applicant to strive for an inclusive and culturally safe space for dialogue and feedback.

## Glossary of Key Terms

**Honoraria:** A monetary gift in acknowledgement of valued knowledge, guidance and/or teachings shared, and should not be considered payment for service.

**Indigenous or Indigenous Peoples:** For the purposes of this document, Indigenous refers to the original inhabitants of North America. In other contexts the term also refers to those across the globe who are the first peoples of their respective regions.

**Local Nations:** The City of Vancouver is on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), referred to collectively as the 'local Nations'.

**xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** – The word for the Musqueam people in their language, hə́hə́mihə́m. In English they are also referred to as the Musqueam Indian Band.

**Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw** – The word for the Squamish Nation in their language, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh sníchim.

**səliłwətał** - The word for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, in their language, hə́hə́mihə́m.

**Nation-led:** A project, initiative, or process that are initiated, directed, and governed by Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, or Tsleil-Waututh Nation. The Nation has decision-making authority and leadership over the work, rather than being a participant in the initiative.

**Nation member:** An individual who is a recognised member of one of the local Nations, specifically Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. These individuals may include Elders, knowledge keepers, or other community members. It is important to be aware that individual Nation members do not represent their Nations' official government positions unless explicitly designated to do so.

**Nation-owned:** A business, organisation, or entity owned and operated by the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, or Tsleil-Waututh Nation government or its economic development arm.

**Nation representative:** An individual who has clearly and specifically been designated to represent the official government positions of the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, or Tsleil-Waututh Nation. These individuals may include elected members, staff representatives, or any other individual delegated to speak or act on behalf of a local Nation.

**Traditional territory:** The land that was (and often still is) occupied and stewarded by Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial.

**Urban Indigenous Peoples:** The diverse Indigenous Peoples who live in and work in urban areas. The City often distinguishes between urban Indigenous Peoples and those from the local Nations. This does not mean Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples do not also live and work in urban areas. The distinction is made as the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples hold land-based rights to the territory on which Vancouver is situated.

APPENDIX A – ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY: MUSQUEAM INDIAN BAND, SQUAMISH NATION, TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION, AND URBAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

**Date submitted:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**Project or initiative title:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Project address:** Click or tap here to enter text.

---

**APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name, title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone number: Click or tap here to enter text.

E-mail address: Click or tap here to enter text.

---

**1. ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW**

a) Outreach: Provide a summary of the overall engagement approach and effort.

Click or tap here to enter text.

b) Key Themes: Provide a summary of the themes heard through engagement.

i) Areas of Support:

Click or tap here to enter text.

ii) Areas of Concern:

Click or tap here to enter text.

c) Describe how these themes are reflected in changes to the project proposal, specifically noting deliverables and opportunities shaped through Indigenous engagement, including through specific deliverables, project alterations and/or opportunities developed.

Click or tap here to enter text.

---

---

## **2. DETAILED COMMENTS AND RESPONSE - xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band)**

- a) Engagement Summary: Provide a summary of the overall engagement approach and effort specific to engagement with Musqueam Indian Band.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- b) Summary of Major Feedback: Provide a summary of key area of interests and concerns expressed by Musqueam Indian Band.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- c) Project Response: Describe how this feedback is reflected in changes to the project proposal, including through specific deliverables, project alterations and/or opportunities developed.

Click or tap here to enter text.

---

## **ENGAGEMENT LOG - xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band)**

Note major correspondence (invitations – including multiple outreach attempts, circulation of documents or plans, invitations to revise or review), meetings, workshops, site tours and any other notable engagement activities.

<b>#</b>	<b>Contact(s), Role</b>	<b>Date</b> dd/mm/yy	<b>Contact Type</b>	<b>Notes</b>

*Add additional rows as needed.*

---

### **3. DETAILED COMMENTS AND RESPONSE – Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)**

- a) Engagement Summary: Provide a summary of the overall engagement approach and effort specific to engagement with Squamish Nation.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- b) Summary of Major Feedback: Provide a summary of key area of interests and concerns expressed by Squamish Nation.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- c) Project Response: Describe how this feedback is reflected in changes to the project proposal, including through specific deliverables, project alterations and/or opportunities developed.

Click or tap here to enter text.

---

### **ENGAGEMENT LOG – Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)**

Note major correspondence (invitations – including multiple outreach attempts, circulation of documents or plans, invitations to revise or review), meetings, workshops, site tours and any other notable engagement activities.

<b>#</b>	<b>Contact(s), Role</b>	<b>Date</b> dd/mm/yy	<b>Contact Type</b>	<b>Notes</b>

*Add additional rows as needed.*

---

#### **4. DETAILED COMMENTS AND RESPONSE – səliiwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)**

- a) **Engagement Summary:** Provide a summary of the overall engagement approach and effort specific to engagement with Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- b) **Summary of Major Feedback:** Provide a summary of key area of interests and concerns expressed by Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- c) **Project Response:** Describe how this feedback is reflected in changes to the project proposal, including through specific deliverables, project alterations and/or opportunities developed.

Click or tap here to enter text.

---

#### **ENGAGEMENT LOG – səliiwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)**

Note major correspondence (invitations – including multiple outreach attempts, circulation of documents or plans, invitations to revise or review), meetings, workshops, site tours and any other notable engagement activities.

<b>#</b>	<b>Contact(s), Role</b>	<b>Date</b> dd/mm/yy	<b>Contact Type</b>	<b>Notes</b>

*Add additional rows as needed.*

---

## **5. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS – URBAN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES**

- a) Engagement Summary: Provide a summary of the overall engagement approach and effort specific to urban Indigenous organisations, leaders, or community members.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- i) Note how participation reflected the diversity of the urban Indigenous community, e.g. youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQ+, Black Indigenous community perspectives.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- b) Summary of Major Feedback: Provide a summary of key area of interests and concerns expressed.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- c) Project Response: Provide a summary of how the project proposal responds to the feedback, including through specific deliverables, project alterations and/or opportunities developed.

Click or tap here to enter text.

---

## **ENGAGEMENT LOG - URBAN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES**

Note major correspondence (invitations – including multiple outreach attempts, circulation of documents or plans, invitations to revise or review), meetings, workshops, site tours and any other notable engagement activities.

<b>#</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Date</b> dd/mm/yy	<b>Contact Type</b>	<b>Notes</b>

*Add additional rows as needed.*

---

## **6. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS – INDIGENOUS CONSULTANTS**

- i) Engagement Summary: Provide a summary of the overall engagement approach and effort specific to Indigenous consultants, business, or organisations contracted to provide guidance or advice from an Indigenous perspective.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- i) Briefly describe the relevant experience and expertise of any Indigenous consultancies and organisations engaged. Note whether it is Indigenous-owned/led, local Nation-owned or local Nation member-owned/led.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- ii) Note how participation reflected the diversity of Indigenous community members, e.g. youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQ+, Black Indigenous community perspectives.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- ii) Summary of Major Feedback: Provide a summary of key area of interests and concerns expressed.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- iii) Project Response: Provide a summary of how the project proposal responds to the feedback, including through specific deliverables, project alterations and/or opportunities developed.

Click or tap here to enter text.

## **7. APPENDICES**

Attach the following information:

1. Presentation materials
  2. Notable documentation, including:
    - correspondence,
    - letters of support,
    - memorandum/letters of agreement, and
    - other materials reflecting the success of the project's Indigenous engagement efforts.
- 

## **8. SUBMISSION**

Engagement summary to be submitted to **Clarice Celeste, Project Facilitator** at **clarice.celeste@vancouver.ca** for review in consultation with the Senior Director of Indigenous Relations prior to the development permit application decision.