

BC Hydro UN Declaration Implementation Plan



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BC Hydro's UN Declaration Implementation Plan

**Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities
Engagement**

Overview of today's session

What to expect as we discuss BC Hydro's proposed plan

- Presentation: BC Hydro's UN Declaration Implementation Plan – 15 mins
- Questions and discussion (open floor; online chat) – 15 mins
- Breakout sessions – 15 mins each
 - Co-development / Indigenous-led development
 - Ownership: what opportunities do you see in your community?
 - Transparency: what would you like to know about BC Hydro?

Developing the plan in collaboration with Indigenous peoples

Our overarching objectives

Developing and actioning an UN Declaration implementation plan is our next step in advancing reconciliation. We want to:

- Create a plan that identifies the concrete actions we will take to advance reconciliation
- Ensure transparency by reporting to Nations and the public on our progress

The plan will be a living document that will be updated periodically, in partnership with Indigenous peoples, to align with changes in law, policy, and our business context.

Incorporating the UN Declaration in the context of BC Hydro's business

Targeting actions within our mandate and relevant to our work as a utility

- The UN Declaration is a broad declaration covering many topics, and not all its 46 articles directly pertain to BC Hydro's business
- We have carefully reviewed the UN Declaration and have identified what we believe are the articles that relate to our work as a utility

UN Declaration plan themes

Understanding the UN Declaration in the context of our business

We have grouped relevant UN Declaration articles into five broad themes:

- Respectful Relations
- Social and Cultural Well-Being
- Decision-Making
- Water, Land, and Environment
- Economic Relations

Respectful Relations

Articles 1, 2, 7, 17, and 22

BC Hydro's relationships with Indigenous peoples must be based on respect, recognition and exercise of title and rights, self-determination, and self-governance.

Social and Cultural Well-Being

Articles 3, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 24

Given the ties between water, land and the environment and Indigenous cultural practices, BC Hydro's work impacts Indigenous peoples' social and cultural well-being – we need to support Indigenous social and cultural well-being to mitigate those impacts.

Decision-Making

Articles 4, 18, 19, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 40

BC Hydro will support Indigenous self-determination and self-governance in decision-making and collaborate with Indigenous peoples on decisions that affect them.

Water, Land, and Environment

Articles 10, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 32

Our operations have had, and will continue to have, impacts on water, land, and the environment. We want to create new opportunities for environmental stewardship and protection in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

Economic Relations

Articles 3, 20, 21, 23, and 26

BC Hydro is well-positioned to contribute towards economic reconciliation in a variety of ways, some established (e.g., procurement, employment), and some new (e.g., co-ownership).

What's we've heard so far

Feedback from Indigenous engagement to date

- Strong interest in independent power projects
- Interest in Indigenous utilities and ownership of electrical infrastructure
- Nations must benefit from use of lands and resources in their territories
- Desire to change mandate on revenue sharing and historic redress
- Interest in how BC Hydro's plan aligns with the Province's

What we've heard so far

Feedback from Indigenous engagement to date

- Participation in decision-making is a priority (free, prior and informed consent)
- Time and resources for consultation can be challenging
- Indigenous knowledge and processes must inform BC Hydro's work
- Reliability improvements are needed in some areas

Reflecting feedback in the plan

Our plan has evolved to incorporate Indigenous feedback

- Reflecting Indigenous rights and ongoing collaboration more clearly in the plan's language
- Signaling our commitment to align with and support the Province as they implement the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*
- New actions suggested by Indigenous peoples (e.g., aquatic restoration)

Questions & Discussion