

Building Relationships with Indigenous Peoples and Aboriginal Communities: What the Duty to Consult and Accommodate means for Ontario Planners

Preface

The following learning module was developed from the work of Carolyn King* and David J. Stinson**. They have been collaborating since 2015 to educate land use planners and economic development officers on the necessity of consultation and accommodation. They were asked by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) to prepare a Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) course for the professional development of its members.

In this Continuous Professional Learning course, we will explore some of the worldviews, perspectives, communities and territories that belong to the First Peoples of this Land. This will provide a context for understanding the meaning of planning in the multi-jurisdictional place we call Canada and role of planners in the Duty to Consult and Accommodate.

In our live presentations, we start with a Welcome from an Elder. Like most meetings in most societies, gatherings of any significance start with a welcome. In the contexts we are studying here, that welcome often consists of a prayer, or ritual, or ceremony. The intention is to clear the mind and open the heart of personal concerns so that the important matters at hand can be dealt with in peace. It is not about the imposition of belief, but rather an invitation to participation. You are free to participate to whatever degree you are comfortable, without prejudice.

**Carolyn is a member and life-long resident of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. She has been an employee of her community, but was also elected as its first female Chief. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of its community & economic development, its public relations, its land-use planning policies & environmental procedures. She has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her support of First Nation history and advancement of the Aboriginal peoples, the recipient of an Eagle Feather from the Council of MCFN in recognition for 20 years of volunteering, and has recently been appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada. She is the creator of the Moccasin Identifier Project and is President of the Shared Path Consultation Initiative.*

***David is a Registered Professional Planner, Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, and a Professional Agrologist. He has spent several decades working with First Nations and on behalf of land-use issues relevant to Aboriginal communities. He was employed as the Community Planning Advisor for the Ogemawabj Tribal Council. David has served on the Indigenous Community Planning Committee of the Canadian Institute of Planners and on the Indigenous Planning Perspectives Advisory Group for the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. He is a Partner at Incite Planning and serves on the Board of the Shared Path Consultation Initiative.*

Conclusion

Commissioner Linden ended Volume 1 of the Ipperwash Inquiry report by referencing Chief Justice Lamer in the *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* case: “let us face it, we are all here to stay”. He adds his own hope “... that not only we face this reality; we will embrace it in the original spirit and intent of the treaties... [which] envisioned Aboriginal peoples and settlers sharing the wealth and stewardship of this great land. Since we are all here to stay, we must continue to build relationships of trust, mutual respect and support. The road to reconciliation may be long and difficult, but it is a road that all peoples, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, must walk together.”¹

Further Links:

- Aboriginal Television: www.aptn.ca
- City of Calgary’s Aboriginal policy and framework - they’ve done the work: www.calgary.ca – *Aboriginal Committee*
- First Nations: www.mnfn.ca; www.sixnations.ca; etc., etc.
- Indigenous Services Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html>
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs.html>
- New Credit Pow-Wow: www.newcredcc.ca
- Newswire service: www.nationtalk.ca
- Mocassin identifier: www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/ontarioplace/park_trails.shtml
- Tourism: www.attc.ca
- Treaties: several official sites to guide you: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>
- Shared Path Consultation Initiative: <https://sharedpath.ca/>
- Incite Planning: www.inciteplanning.com
- “*Planning with the Duty to Consult*”. 2018. CIP Professional Learning Hub – Canadian Institute of Planners. 27 June 2018 | Posted by CIP | Indigenous Planning Post Contributed by Carolyn King and David J. Stinson, RPP, MCIP, P.Ag.: [<https://www.cip-icu.ca/Learning-Hub?tagname=Indigenous+Planning&groupid=0#>]
- “*Does Planning have a Role in Truth and Reconciliation?*”. 2016. Planning Exchange Blog – Ontario Professional Planners Institute. 3 October 2016 | Posted by OPPI | Post Contributed by David Stinson, RPP: [<http://ontarioplanners.ca/Blog/Planning-Exchange/October-2016>]
- “*Duty to Consult: A Conversation in Contrasts*”. 2016. OPPI Symposium: Healthy Communities & Planning for the Public Realm. Hamilton, Ontario. 6 October 2016 | Videoed by OPPI | Interview with Mark LaFome and P. Leigh White: [<https://youtu.be/kd39Q9IUM6o>]
- “*13,000 years of Indigenous History in the GTA - And Why It Matters to Planning & Development*”. 2020. Urban Land Institute Toronto. 16 June 2020. ULI/SPCI webinar with Carolyn King and Dr. Ronald F. Williamson: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmy9BFR8dwc&list=PLKM6yTcVJs4_qg2QxYrmyfSSRVHN5VpzK&index=3]

- “*Setting a Baseline: To what extent are Indigenous communities recognised in the official plans of municipalities in southern Ontario?*”. 2020. Shared Path Consultation Initiative. 26 June 2020. SPCI webinar co-presented with Carolyn King and Dali Carmichael: [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0eQ5j6M6U0>]

- “*Indigenous-Municipal Relationship Building: A Panel Discussion with Participants in the Treaty 20 Friendship Accord*”. 2020. Shared Path Consultation Initiative. 2 October 2020. SPCI webinar with Tom Cowie, Dr. Julie Kapyrka, and Mary Smith: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgjTaJRqE&list=PLKM6yTcVJs4_qg2QxYrmyfSSRVHN5VpZK&index=4]

ⁱ Honourable Sidney B. Linden. 2007. *Ipperwash Inquiry*. Government of Ontario