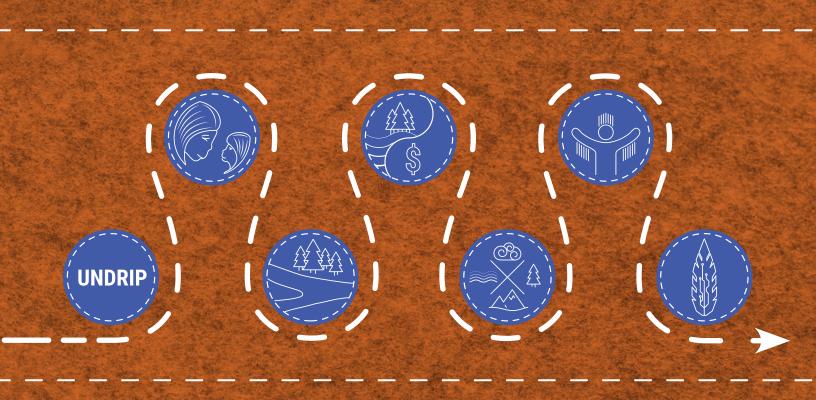


Indigenous Partnerships:

Learnings, Opportunities & Conditions for Success



Starting the journey to building relationships and deepening understanding of Indigenous perspectives as part of Canada's developing battery ecosystem

Acknowledgements:

Siyisgaas, kinanâskomawawâw, marsi, îsniyes, thank you all.

It is with gratitude that the Battery Metals Association of Canada (BMAC) acknowledges the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories belonging to First Nations communities across Canada that the Association operates within.

Thank you to the peoples of Treaty 7 for hosting both our in-person workshop and CHARGED! Battery Conference. The peoples of Treaty 7 include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

BMAC is committed to a journey of fostering meaningful partnership, being active in understanding Indigenous perspectives to uphold Indigenous rights, advancing Truth and Reconciliation and looking beyond a project's lifecycle: toward sustainability to address impacts that today's decisions have on future generations.

The Learnings, Opportunities and Conditions for Success offered in this report were deeply shaped by many partners, including the members of the Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC), who provided indispensable guidance and feedback throughout the work. Thank you for your leadership, wisdom and contributions that we continue to learn from and seek to carry forward in the work ahead.

The vision for this work and facilitation of collaboration and engagement by our partners at the Energy Futures Lab were critical components in this journey. We extend appreciation to the many participants and collaborators who have contributed to this project in meaningful ways through our in-person workshop and in-session seminar at BMAC's CHARGED! Battery Conference.

Heartfelt thanks to these groups who generously shared their time, knowledge and experiences with us. Without their collaboration, commitment and trust, our project would not have been successful.

We are grateful for the support from Alberta Innovates and Prairies Economic Development Canada, for making this endeavor possible.

With sincerest gratitude,

The BMAC Team

With Special Thanks To:

Indigenous Advisory Circle Members:

Leoni Rivers, Gitxsan

Dazawray Landrie-Parker, *Métis*

Steve Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation

Ryan Robb, Stoney Nakoda Nation

Miles Joliffe, Inuvialuit

Annmarie Garby, *Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation*

Reggie George, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

Lacy Gielen, Walpole Island First Nation (Bkejwanong)

Our Project Guides:

Hal Eagletail, Spiritual Leader, Tsuut'ina

Raylene Whitford, *Cree/Métis*

Winona Lafreniere

Our Partners at the Energy Futures Lab:

Danielle Mitchell, Nehiyaw/Métis

Pong Leung

Ailsa Popilian

Erin Romanchuk

Brian Nicholson

Emily Blocksom

Authors:

Alexandra Fischer

Liz Lappin

Sean De Vries

Contributor:

Ailsa Popilian

Project Advisor & Supporting Author:

Danielle Mitchell, Nehiyaw/Métis





With the support of: Prairies Economic Development Canada





Table of Contents:

Learnings, Opportunities & Conditions for Success	1
Acknowledgements	1
Table of Contents	3
Introduction	4
Background	5
Purpose	6
Process	7
What We Heard	10
Meaningful Relationships are Paramount	10
Doing the Work Before the Work: Starting from a Place of Humility	12
Understanding Your Starting Place: Different Ways of Thinking, Being and Doing	14
Relationship Building: Moving Beyond Words to Actions	15
Creating a Path Forward	16
Indigenous Partnerships: Learnings, Opportunities & Conditions for Success	16
Seven Opportunities of Partnerships	17
Seven Conditions for Successful Partnerships	18
Next Steps	20
Conclusion	21
Resources & References	22
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation	22
Call to Action <u>#92</u> for Corporate Canada	22
Other Resources	23
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	23
Works Cited	25

Introduction:

In 2022, the Battery Metals Association of Canada (BMAC) engaged a wide range of stakeholders to develop a <u>Bold Transformative Vision</u> for building a robust and sustainable battery industry in Canada.

This vision defined the success of this endeavor in part, by effectively incorporating three key criteria:

Setting world-leading **ESG** standards and transparency for the global industry in responsible and sustainable mining.

Contributing significantly to the social and economic wellbeing in the communities we work in and the equity seeking groups we work with.

Serving to build and grow the value chain as a whole to expand opportunities for all.

One fundamental insight underpinned everything: meaningful, authentic relationships with Indigenous communities are paramount.

In working to achieve this vision, it quickly became apparent that developing a deeper understanding of the diversity amongst Indigenous perspectives and community-specific intersections was a crucial factor to successfully integrating these criteria across the nascent value chain. By addressing these gaps in knowledge, awareness and action, the opportunity emerges to cultivate meaningful relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities, and create necessary conditions to ensure Indigenous rights are upheld and protected - advancing equitable growth in the sector in the shared benefit of all generations to come.

Background:

Indigenous perspectives are often invisibilized and excluded from discussions about the battery value chain- particularly in downstream processes that transform raw materials into battery components and final products.

This absence represents missed opportunities to rethink how Canada's battery industry develops and aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #92, which urges businesses to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a framework for Reconciliation. It calls for meaningful consultation, informed consent (often referred to as Free, Prior and Informed Consent or FPIC), equitable access to jobs and training, and inclusion of Indigenous decisionmaking in all phases of economic development projects, to name a few.

Recognizing these current gaps, there is a need to move beyond conventional approaches focused solely on engagement and consultation. Instead, industry leaders must embrace more inclusive models that position Indigenous communities as true partners, ensuring their leadership, consent and self-determination in project development. By doing so, the sector can grow in a more holistic, sustainable manner — one that strengthens communities and improves lives rather than perpetuating exclusion, inequity and harm.







Purpose:

The aim of this work was to engage the battery industry and key decision makers within it to:

- Reflect on what Call to Action #92 for Corporate Canada means to them, and
- Consider the ways in which Call to Action #92 can be incorporated into their organization, operations and ways of thinking and approaching their work.

It was further intended to ensure that the insights and learnings shared, informed the creation of a resource that aids individuals and organizations operating across the battery value chain in a variety of ways. This includes better understanding of accountabilities, barriers (i.e. historical and ongoing systemic inequities and exclusion) and opportunities for respectful relationships, meaningful partnerships and key considerations for navigating the complexities, diverse perspectives and intersections within the Canadian context.





Process:

Recognizing the need for and importance of this work, deliberate intention was put into scoping the work to date, drawing on perspectives, ways of doing and being inextricably connecting Indigenous Peoples and their homelands across Canada since time immemorial. This started with enhancing personal learnings in this space, exploring responsibilities and accountabilities through drafting broad concepts and working with the Indigenous Advisory Circle to refine the framework for a workshop that would support Indigenous and industry leaders to explore the topic further.

A conscious effort was made to ensure there was an opportunity for two-way learning, where:

- Shared Indigenous perspectives and approaches were centered to better enable meaningful inclusion and direction-setting; and
- Industry participants had the opportunity to critically reflect, and collaboratively examine personal and organizational accountabilities to Call to Action #92 and foster pathways to act on insights shared by Indigenous leaders, decisionmakers and communities.

Prior to the workshop, key conversational interviews were held with several participants to provide baseline feedback and help establish a 'starting point', identify priorities for discussion and inform planning and design processes.

Emergent areas of focus included:

- The importance of responding to Call to Action #92
- How 'success' / impact can be best understood or articulated
- What critical gaps need to be addressed
- What wise or best practices need to inform pathways ahead





Workshop - May 2024

With this baseline, BMAC, in conjunction with the Energy Futures Lab, hosted a one-day in-person workshop with Indigenous leaders and non-Indigenous leaders from the battery industry to explore ways in which the sector could respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #92 for Corporate Canada. The workshop was designed to create opportunities to listen and learn from Indigenous people; to understand the diverse, unique needs, rights and interests in participating in the battery industry, including cultural, land/ecological, socioeconomic and political considerations required to build a world-leading, responsible, and sustainable sector.

The workshop created space for new relationships to emerge and grow as the group recognized that Canada's critical minerals sector is at a critical inflection point. As the demand for

battery materials grows, the industry is still developing, offering a unique chance to start from a place that values right relations and starting in a good way: to build rights-affirming relationships with Indigenous Communities and collaborators and address environmental and social impacts across the entire value chain.

During the workshop, industry representatives expressed a strong desire to learn about Indigenous rights, legal frameworks, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Indigenous leaders, in turn, reaffirmed the importance of collaborative governance, economic participation, and Reconciliation, highlighting the importance of trust-based, long-term relationships and upholding of inherent, constitutional and legislative rights to foster reciprocal knowledge sharing in relationship to the emerging battery value chain.



Plenary Session at CHARGED! Battery Conference -October 2024

The success of the

industry depends on

strong partnerships and

collaboration going forward,

were engaged and ready to

take concrete steps toward

building stronger, more

equitable relationships.

Building on the learnings and reflections from the first workshop, a second workshop was hosted at BMAC's CHARGED! Battery Conference. This session expanded the conversation on Indigenous partnerships to a broader audience - embracing approaches of relationality

while also inviting focused reflection and intentional discussion.

During this plenary, conference attendees were presented with learnings from the first workshop, along with Seven Opportunities and Seven

Conditions for Successful Partnerships. Creating the space to uproot biases and assumptions to better understand Indigenous voices and perspectives, attendees were encouraged to consider personal and collective action aimed

to encourage learning in this space as ongoing rather than a single event.

Participants were invited to reflect on these Opportunities and Conditions for Successful Partnership, and identify relevant opportunities and challenges in their own context. Collective examination and discussion sought to encourage thinking not only about the potential for partnerships and it was clear that attendees but to dismantle barriers to developing an equitable, robust and sustainable battery industry in Canada.

> One observation shared during the conference, was the noticeable intention by participants to ask 'different questions', and to speak to how Indigenous perspectives were included or addressed within the sessions hosted over the two-day gathering.

What We Heard:

Meaningful Relationships are Paramount

So much was learned and shared during the course of the journey so far.

One fundamental insight underpinned everything: meaningful, authentic relationships with Indigenous communities are paramount.

Relationships must come before any sort of work can proceed, as it forms the cornerstone of successful and respectful collaboration.

Taking the time to learn about the protocols, priorities and governance of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities within the territories one is working within, contributes to genuine collaboration and inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, science and leadership in a project from the very beginning.

The importance of including Indigenous voices very early before projects are

planned or investments made, is critical for ensuring that any project in the battery ecosystem is successful, sustainable, and respectful – from all perspectives. Successful collaborations are ones where Indigenous voices have been involved from the outset. Projects (particularly those in the upstream part of the critical minerals value chain) demonstrate that early engagement leads to stronger partnerships and pathways to working across worldviews, sectors/industries, disciplines and professions.

Meaningful relationships require reciprocal learning and information sharing.

Education plays a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Beginning in a good way – respecting protocols, traditional knowledge and educating ourselves on the historical and ongoing realities experienced by Indigenous Peoples across Canada – lays the groundwork for partnership rooted in truth and truth-telling.





Non-Indigenous individuals must take
the time to learn about Indigenous
tra
rights, governance, cultural practices,
and the ongoing impacts of Settler
Colonialism¹. It is essential for nonIndigenous individuals to understand
this learning as not a one-time
event but a continuous,
ongoing process that
requires a longterm commitment
and openness
to learning,
unlearning, and

Relationships must come
before any sort of work

understanding

Indigenous

perspectives

and worldviews.

Indigenous
communities
must have access to
information about the critical
minerals sector and the technologies
driving the clean energy transition.
While Indigenous individuals in Canada
are well aware of the economic
opportunities these sectors present,
making informed, long-term decisions

for their communities requires transparency and timely access to relevant project information.

In the learnings and work to advance Reconciliation, it is recognized this is an ongoing process, not a single event, program or project.

This work requires sustained dialogue and cooperation, even after initial relationships have Relationships must come been formed. Both personal can proceed, as it forms the and institutional cornerstone of successful and commitments respectful collaboration. to uphold accountabilities and legal obligations are necessary, recognizing that Reconciliation is a multi-generational effort. By fostering continuous engagement and mutual respect, we can work towards true Reconciliation that honours the rights and sovereignty of Indigenous peoples while building stronger, more inclusive partnerships.

^{1.} Settler-Colonialism^{vii}: a particular form of colonization that seeks to permanently establish a new political order through the elimination of Indigenous rights. Settler colonialism is unique. Settler-colonialism is different from other forms of colonialism in that settlers come with the intention of making a new home on the land, a homemaking that insists on settler sovereignty over all things in their new domain. Click here for more information about <u>Settler-Colonialism</u>

Doing the Work Before the Work: Starting from a Place of Humility

Many organizations make the mistake of proposing collaborations with Indigenous communities without first establishing a strong foundation for working respectfully.

In their excellent framework on Indigenous community engagement, Ferland, Chen and Villagrán Becerra refer to this foundation as "doing the work before the work," which involves "developing literacy" about a Community's connections to the territories they steward and cultural ways of doing and being. This requires "engaging in critical self-reflection, and building relationships with Indigenous peoples and Communities" (Ferland, Chen & Villagrán Becerra, 16) and operating from a place of humility acknowledging there is much to be learned and contribute to addressing

past and ongoing harms. Reconciliation and relationship-building are long-term processes that require time, patience, and a commitment to respecting First Nations, Métis and Inuit worldviews, governance, and rights.

Strengthening understanding of Nation or Community-specific histories, cultures and governance involves learning about historical and ongoing impacts, upholding Indigenous resistance, and the unique cultures and knowledge systems within each Community. It also means supporting Indigenous self-determination and challenging colonial practices. It means recognizing Communities know their own needs best - this looks different for each Nation and Community (selfdetermination) and is best determined by the voices of partners and Communities involved. Examination of the identities, motivations, and how to walk alongside Indigenous peoples and lands cared for, is an active practice rooted in humility. It also involves recognizing the positionality of land dispossession, policy and treaty beneficiaries, being aware of how actions are perceived, and disrupting biases and colonial mindsets within ourselves and others.







Demonstrating genuine, collaborative action is a building block of strong relationships and essential for fostering trust and forming partnerships:

this takes time and must be rooted in the spirit of reciprocity.

Upholding and respecting the rights of Indigenous people and Communities is a way of demonstrating a way of working differently and creating the opportunities for new, unrealized outcomes that disrupt the long-standing, multi-generational marginalization experienced by Indigenous Peoples

in Canada and globally. It's important to embrace the sometimes difficult yet necessary conversations. Discomfort in conversations that challenge

> personal values or perspectives can be an indicator of growth within one's decolonization process.

Iso lay approactive asting, approach strengthens relationships, improves outcomes for community partnerships, and enables us to anticipate challenges, manage cultural differences, and align our efforts with the visions of Indigenous communities.

By "doing the work before the work," we not only enhance our capacity to engage with Indigenous communities but also lay the foundation for lasting, reciprocal partnerships rooted in mutual respect and shared understanding.





Understanding Your Starting Place: Different Ways of Thinking, Being and Doing

Recognizing how relationships are built and collaboration unfolds before engaging with Indigenous communities, it is important for individuals and organizations to reflect on possible power dynamics, barriers, and conscious and unconscious attitudes and stereotypes that can shape perceptions and actions, affecting how relationships are built and how collaboration unfolds. Creating spaces for self-reflection within organizations and at all stages of development, implementation and sustainment are crucial for identifying and changing course, ensuring more respectful and effective engagement.

A key aspect to consider is that the critical minerals and battery sectors are deeply rooted in Western capitalist systems, which often conflict with Indigenous worldviews both in Canada and globally. Capitalism as a system prioritizes efficiency and profit, which is often gained through extractive strategies. An understanding shared by many First Nations, Métis and Inuit Communities involves the obligations

to stewardship and care for all - the health and wellbeing of the land, plants, animals, humans and water bodies.

Priorities and practices rooted in efficiency and profit-generation often ignore localized land and environmental considerations to inform infrastructure, site decisions and industry technical processes. While this does not preclude the sovereign choice of a Nation to engage and shape their own participation and decision-making involvement, it is helpful to recognize how dominance or belief in the superiority of a single worldview can impact the development of relationships and the trajectory of partnership and development projects.

Approaches that draw on Indigenous knowledge(s) that have existed in relationship to all territories across Canada for thousands of years and complimentary Western knowledge and science, can illuminate 'stepping stones' toward sustainable partnership and a sustainable battery metals landscape.







Relationship Building: Moving Beyond Words to Actions

Building relationships with Indigenous communities goes beyond checking boxes or merely meeting legal requirements; it's about creating genuine, lasting connections founded on trust, respect, and shared goals for the future.

Transparency in communication, honesty in negotiations, and consistency in actions are key to fostering these relationships. It's important to recognize that respecting Indigenous self-determination includes a Community having the right to say "no" to projects that threaten culture, health, wellbeing, land, traditional food sources for example, and this is an obligation to uphold during all phases of the project process.

When the needs and perspectives of Indigenous Nations and Communities are diverse, it is important to name the tension that exists between the urgency of the global energy transition and the necessity to work differently, to realize different futures, realities and outcomes. While the critical minerals sector faces escalating pressures to meet energy demands, ignoring or

invisibilizing the necessary relationship building and Rights intersections, similarly present an increased risk for lasting harm. Although the energy transition is urgent, society's progress will be undermined, and potentially slowed without respectful, long-term partnerships rooted in ways that balance development with protection of land and resources in service of all Indigenous and non-Indigenous generations following.

To BMAC, moving beyond words to actions means demonstrating a genuine commitment to Reconciliation and partnership through tangible, measurable impact.

This includes practices like joint decision-making, economic partnerships, cultural respect, centering Indigenous knowledge, and environmental stewardship.

Successful projects (examples provided through 'our' experience and as shared by participants during this journey) that have prioritized relationship-building demonstrate that when actions reflect a deep commitment to change, stronger, more sustainable partnerships emerge.











Creating a Path Forward:

Indigenous Partnerships: Learnings, Opportunities & Conditions for Success

The May 2024, in-person workshop was attended by Indigenous leaders and innovators from across the battery value chain. Building on the learnings from this day and with leadership from the Indigenous Advisory Circle, a set of Opportunities and Conditions were created. Below are examples of opportunities that taking action presents, along with conditions for successful partnerships that organizations throughout the battery value chain can reflect on.

By considering these examples and identifying potential barriers to advancing partnerships, organizations may uncover new pathways to creating meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships. The hope is that the battery industry in Canada will serve as an example of how to foster meaningful partnerships that not only advance projects but also honour Truth and Reconciliation, Indigenous rights, and sustainability in tandem and addresses the impacts of today's decisions on future generations.



Seven Opportunities of Partnerships:

1. Co-create a pathway for the industry to uphold Indigenous rights and advance Reconciliation.

Take meaningful action to inspire and demonstrate what is possible and reinforcing our industry reputation and brand.

2. Reciprocal knowledge sharing.

Work in ways that center Indigenous knowledge, wisdom and teachings, including localized land and environmental considerations to inform infrastructure, site decisions and industry technical processes.

3. Community support and relations.

Respond to the expectations of investors who are increasingly curious about community support and relations to understand project risk, impact and performance.

4. Access Indigenous financing and capital.

Through equity sharing agreements with Indigenous communities and organizations such as the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC).

5. Uphold responsibilities, accountabilities.

Uphold obligations to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as an inherent right of Indigenous Peoples, and processes that provide opportunities to strengthen relations, lower project risks, and align the objectives of Indigenous communities and corporations.

6. Draw on localized knowledge and skills.

Foster an environment where Indigenous knowledge is honoured throughout the project cycle and beyond by hiring local people for leadership, operations, expertise, contracting and business.

7. Align with regulatory and legislative expectations and evolving landscape.

The Government of Canada adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into legislation in 2021.

Seven Conditions for Successful Partnerships:

- 1. Acknowledge and lean into (not ignore or dismiss) discomfort that may arise as a result of learning about Indigenous people's realities and experiences, including Canada's historical and ongoing settler-colonialism.
 - Discomfort is normal and a sign that we are exploring something new to us. If we approach this with curiosity and openness it may result in new solutions and ideas.
- 2. Adopt a curious and 'open' stance when initiating and nurturing partnership with Indigenous communities.
 - Walking with humility acknowledges there is much to be learned and that building trust and relationships takes time.
- 3. Take action to educate yourself and others on truthful narratives.

 Deepen understanding of where we are and how we got here, consent, continued intergenerational impacts, historical and ongoing connections to land.
- 4. Develop awareness of conscious and unconscious biases and stereotypes held about Indigenous people, cultures, ways of doing and being.
 - Explicit attention to worldview, most often a dominant, Western perspective (offered as an observation, rather than criticism) in decision-making is necessary to uproot assumptions and understand the realities and lived experiences of Indigenous communities.

5. Facilitate projects and development in ways that respect and recognize the diversity of Indigenous cultures, Nations and communities.

Each Nation best understands their realities and needs. Decision-making about development options and project leadership should be based on this understanding. A framework for decision-making that is shared by many Indigenous communities is Seven Generations Thinking which considers the impact of decisions made today on future generations.

6. Commit to shared governance and decision-making with Indigenous Nations and communities.

Be informed about ancestral, inherent and constitutionally protected rights, responsibilities to FPIC and other key reports, recommendations during and beyond lifecycle of projects and what it means to work in relationship.

7. Establish FPIC, 'benefit-sharing' and 'data sovereignty' (e.g. OCAP*) as a minimum standard for partnership with Nations.

This looks different for each Nation and Community (self-determination) and is best determined by the voices of partners and communities involved.

^{*} First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession – more commonly known as OCAP®

Next Steps:

As the industry progresses in its efforts to build meaningful relationships with Indigenous Communities and respond to obligations and accountabilities to Indigenous Rights, BMAC must continue its own efforts to integrate Call to Action #92 into all aspects of the organization. As a priority, this includes integrating Indigenous leadership at the governance level of the association to contribute to overall vision and strategy for the organization and to help guide future initiatives.

BMAC will also prioritize ongoing education and capacity-building so Indigenous rights, histories, and governance structures can be understood and respected amongst its team and member organizations. This includes training on Free, Prior, and Informed

Consent (FPIC), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (B.C), and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, particularly Call to Action #92.

BMAC is committed to supporting the broader industry to move beyond project-

by-project engagement and develop sustained, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations by expanding the work described in this report. This can include creating intentional spaces for the "work before the work", and exploring solutions such as new business models and structures, studying existing Indigenous-led initiatives that could support long-term economic participation For project work, and sovereignty, BMAC will aim to and supporting

establish advisory councils

composed of Indigenous

leaders, Elders/Knowledge

Keepers, and community

representatives as required to

help ensure that Indigenous

initiatives.

perspectives are not merely consulted, but actively shape industry and policy roles, to help create a more inclusive and representative industry.

> By taking these steps, BMAC can help to establish a pathway for the industry to transcend well-intentioned engagement to a more equitable, sustainable, and truly collaborative future with Indigenous Peoples, Communities and Organizations.

BMAC envisions opportunities to partner on projects that focus on skills development, recruiting and retaining Indigenous talent in leadership, technical,

Indigenous-owned

businesses and

supply chains

battery sector.

within the

Conclusion:

Indigenous Communities and Peoples have been at the forefront of ecosystem sustainability, land protection and justice since time immemorial. As the future of Canada's battery industry takes shape, the time is now to step into the opportunities to learn from and work alongside Indigenous peoples to collaboratively shape the industry and futures in ways that align with principles of stewardship, sustainability, and respect.

With increased awareness and understanding of the historical and ongoing impacts of Settler Colonialism, extraction and harm experienced by Indigenous peoples, industry can take culturally mindful, equitable approaches that uphold the constitutional, inherent

and ancestral rights of Indigenous peoples, Nations and communities.

By respecting Indigenous leadership, governance, and decision making, the battery industry can be shaped in a way that supports community priorities and long-term sustainability for everyone's benefit. A just and forward-looking approach moves beyond the business side of individual projects towards an inclusive industry that considers long-term environmental and social impacts, ensuring that today's decisions honour the responsibilities we have to future generations.



Resources & References:

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports: https://nctr.ca/records/reports/

Call to Action #92 for Corporate Canada

We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a Reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- i. Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.
- ii. Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.
- iii. Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Other Resources

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/U-2.2/

The Government of Canada adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into legislation in 2021. This legislation advances the implementation of the Declaration as a key step in renewing the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples. Read the backgrounder here.

General Literacy

• University of Alberta <u>Indigenous Canada</u> online program

Community Engagement

• University of Manitoba Working in Good Ways

Recognizing Rights and Titles

- B.C. government and the Council of Haida Nation <u>agreement officially recognizing Haida</u> <u>Gwaii's Aboriginal title.</u>
- Backgrounder: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
- Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. <u>Calls for Extractive and Development Industries</u> 13.1 - 13.5.

First Nations Major Projects Coalition, on Critical Minerals

• First Nations Major Projects Coalition Critical Minerals Roundtable Report

Loan Guarantee Programs

- National Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program (Spring 2024 Federal Budget)
- Ontario Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program
- Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation closes second largest deal with \$150 million loan guarantee for 12 Indigenous communities

Indigenous Equity Investment

- Altalink agreement with Piikani nation for co-ownership of a powerline.
- East Tank Farm Deal between Suncor and Fort McKay and Mikisew Cree First Nations
- Tamarac Valley Energy deal with 12 First Nations.
- <u>Barlow</u> and <u>Deerfoot</u> Solar Projects with the Chiniki First Nation and Goodstoney First Nation"
- Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation
- Alberta Metis Investment Corporation

Procurement

• Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan, Local Procurement Checklist.

Global Standards

• The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA).

Works Cited:

Ferland, N., Chen, A., & Villagrán Becerra, G. (2021). Working in good ways: a framework and resources for Indigenous community engagement. Community Engaged Learning, University of Manitoba.

25

Report Design:

The visual elements of this report were created by Saltmedia, a member of the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business and Métis Works Alberta.



www.saltmedia.ca | info@saltmedia.ca | (780) 539-7258

BMAC Battery Metals Association of Canada

Report design by:

