

# Aboriginal Consultation Policy

## Where it comes from

Osum Oil Sands Corp. is a group of people where the **THREE PILLARS OF TRUST, HONESTY AND INTEGRITY** are paramount – these words are front and centre in our corporate vision. Osum’s Aboriginal Consultation Policy stands on the same principles.

Osum people understand that Aboriginal Treaties between the Crown and First Nations exist in the areas where it explores, develops, and operates its projects. Osum is committed to following the appropriate Aboriginal consultation policies as well as the established protocols in its dealings with the Aboriginal communities in the areas in which we work.

Osum people understand that Land is of paramount importance to Aboriginal peoples and that the **CONNECTION TO THE LAND IS DEEPLY SPIRITUAL** and of great cultural significance to each of the Aboriginal communities in the areas in which we work. Osum’s Aboriginal Consultation Policy is intended to help to further the understanding of the importance of the Land and to begin to bridge the gulf of understanding between companies that earn the right from the Crown to undertake resource development and the Aboriginal communities that may be impacted by that resource development.

Osum’s Aboriginal Consultation Policy has been developed to guide a respectful and meaningful dialogue between Osum people and Aboriginal people in our development areas.

## What our goal is

Osum will strive to develop a meaningful two way engagement with Aboriginal communities based on mutual respect and trust whereby our people establish and maintain ongoing dialogues with Aboriginal communities through elected leaders and designated representatives, administration, and community members of the various Aboriginal communities where it explores, develops and operates.

Osum respects the aspirations of Aboriginal communities in the areas where we explore, develop and operate. Osum will work with those communities to leave a legacy that benefits all parties.

## How we get there

Osum engages Aboriginal leaders and communities in positive and productive relationships. With respect, honour and integrity in mind, Osum strives for interactions that are meaningful and mutually beneficial.

## **Aboriginal Consultation Goals and Objectives**

Establish constructive and mutually beneficial relationships between Osum and Aboriginal communities in project areas by implementing an efficient and effective process of information exchange.

The goals are to:

- Respect the **LANGUAGES, CULTURE, CUSTOMS, AND THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS** of Aboriginal peoples;
- Understand and effectively communicate mutual expectations;
- Acquire meaningful input into the project and feedback throughout the life of projects;
- Identify issues and concerns in the local study area and regional study area of each project;
- Maximize positive impacts while mitigating or avoiding negative impacts;
- Meet or exceed all regulations.

## **Aboriginal Consultation Process**

Osum's Aboriginal Consultation process focuses on establishing and maintaining an on-going dialogue with Aboriginal communities in its projects areas through:

- Respecting Aboriginal peoples traditional rights and adhering to government consultation requirements;
- Initiating and maintaining timely discussions where Osum activities have the potential to impact Aboriginal communities;
- Supporting – generally through project specific Traditional Land Use studies – the identification of infringement on specific traditional land uses and rights in order to maximize positive impacts and mitigate all others;
- Respecting traditional practices, cultural activities, and language;
- Treating all parties respectfully, honestly and fairly.

## **How we do this**

By engaging the Aboriginal communities in our project areas and by using the following approach:

**Firstly**, each project shall have it's own Aboriginal consultation plan which is to be developed early in a project planning phase. Project specific information will be shared with all potentially affected Aboriginal communities – these are generally identified by the Province of Alberta, but others may be added by Osum where appropriate.

Osum's approach for the sharing of project specific information includes:

- Visiting Aboriginal communities to initiate, build, and maintain meaningful relationships using established community protocols;
- Presentations to Aboriginal community leaders and representatives;
- Engagement of respected Elders, where and when appropriate, with whom community wisdom and traditions reside and whose guidance Osum people will respect and utilize to minimize our impact on the Land and the associated communities;
- Site visits;
- Open houses.

**Secondly**, Osum will also engage in continuous dialogue with all Aboriginal communities in a specific project area **THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT**, until the Land is returned to the state in which Osum people found it. This includes having on-going conversations with the Aboriginal communities' leadership, administration and designated representatives as appropriate to keep open all avenues of communication and share information.

**Thirdly**, all Osum people, whether or not they are in direct contact with Aboriginal communities, carry the same message. Congruence in all our interactions with Aboriginal communities is part of who we are.

**Fourthly**, we keep records. We document all activities related to Aboriginal consultation and we always include summary of conversations and notes of what was said and we keep records of documentation.

**Fifthly**, we answer all questions and address all concerns. All Osum people are committed to answering questions and addressing concerns expressed by Aboriginal peoples in the projects areas through any channels – none are overlooked.

**What else?**

Osum will always work at involving and consulting with Aboriginal communities where it explores, develops and operates its projects and will continue to do so for the life of each project.