

## Public Map Service

### Contacts for First Nation Consultation Areas

### General Information

#### Overview

- The public map service is a communication tool to assist the user in identifying contact information for First Nations who may have treaty or established rights or, assert aboriginal rights or title within the area queried.
- The maps queried in the database are based on consultation areas for First Nations. The map service functions primarily as a communication tool to inform where and with which First Nation the duty to consult may be triggered.
- The intent of providing the contact information for First Nations through a map service is to facilitate a greater awareness of Indigenous peoples across the Province. It is hoped that the tool will provide a small, first step in establishing healthy and respectful relationships.

#### How the map service works

- The map service allows users to draw a point, line or polygon on the map to generate a list of First Nations that have treaty or established Aboriginal rights or title or are asserting the same.
- The database of consultation areas reflects the Province's understanding of where a First Nation wishes to be consulted and a duty to consult may exist. Consultation areas are described and, or confirmed by First Nations through various means including:
  - Consultation process agreements;
  - Protective writs;
  - Statements of intent for negotiating treaties;
  - Band council resolutions;
  - Correspondence;
  - Engagements with First Nations;
  - Public documents

#### Limitations of the map service.

- The line work for consultation areas is not displayed in the public map service due to privacy concerns.
- The Province will share a consultation area with the corresponding First Nation upon written request from an authorized representative. First Nations can only have access to their own consultation area due to privacy concerns. A First Nation authorized representative may submit their request to [PIP@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PIP@gov.bc.ca).
- The database of consultation areas does not contain a comprehensive list of territories.

#### Helpful resources

- [User Guidance: Technical Instructions for Using the Public Map Service Report Tool](#)
- [Consulting with First Nations](#) (general information)

#### Disclaimer

The information provided is based on the information made available to the Province.

The information provided is not intended to create, recognize, limit, or deny any aboriginal or treaty rights, including aboriginal title, that First Nations may have, or impose any obligations on the Province or alter the legal status of resources within the Province or the existing legal authority of British Columbia. The Province makes no warranties or representations regarding the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, or fitness for use of any or all data provided in the reports.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Public Map Service?
  - To identify contact information for the First Nations who may have treaty or established rights or, assert aboriginal rights or title within a specific area.
2. What is a consultation area?
  - Consultation areas geographically depict, as understood by the Province, where a First Nation has or is asserting treaty or Aboriginal rights or title.
3. Why is the contact list considered preliminary?
  - Consultation area maps are based on the best information known to government and are updated as new information is received. The public map service will be updated regularly if/when maps change.
4. There are many First Nations and corresponding contacts generated from a search. Is each First Nation to be contacted?
  - Generally, where multiple First Nations are identified, government will consult the First Nations who use the area more intensely more deeply. The ministry contact for your application can provide advice regarding which community to focus your efforts. However, First Nations are the most appropriate source to provide information about an area's significance to the community.
5. What are the benefits for proponents contacting First Nations near a proposed project?
  - Proponents have detailed project information and are better able to respond to First Nations' questions and, adjust plans to avoid impacts to Aboriginal Interests or concerns raised by First Nations. A common and more timely understanding of potential issues and mitigations including proponent responsiveness may be more cost effective over the course of a project and lower risks for delays. Proponent engagement with First Nations can play an important role in avoiding impacts to Aboriginal Interests and support government's consultation efforts.
6. When should proponents involve First Nations in their projects?
  - Proponents are encouraged to involve First Nations early in the planning stages of a project - even prior to the government's consultation process. Early engagement with First Nations provides practical, timely and cost-effective opportunities to address many potential issues.
7. Why does the Province consult First Nations?
  - The Crown, as represented by the Province, is legally obligated to consult and accommodate First Nations on land and resource decisions that could impact their rights under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
  - Consultation advances the process of reconciliation between the Province and First Nations.
  - Consultation informs the Province about the nature and scope of claimed or established aboriginal or treaty rights.
  - Consultation informs First Nations where proposed activities on the land base may occur and provides a forum for First Nations to be more involved in processes that inform land use decisions.
8. What are the key features of the legal duty to consult First Nations?
  - The duty to consult is not a mere conversation seeking input. It is a process that involves a much higher standard of conduct that must be meaningful and intend to address negative impacts to aboriginal and treaty rights under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
  - Consultation is an interim measure, intended to safeguard Aboriginal rights until longer term reconciliation between the Province and First Nation is achieved. Consultation processes do not define rights.
  - Consultation is the responsibility of the Province, however government can assign certain procedural aspects of consultation to proponents.