

Aboriginal Group Communication Plan 2025-2026 Annual Report

*Site C Clean Energy Project
Reporting period: April 2025 to March 2026*

March 31, 2026

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Table of Acronyms

BRFN	Blueberry River First Nations
DFN	Duncan's First Nation
DRFN	Doig River First Nation
DTFN	Dene Tha' First Nation
FNFN	Fort Nelson First Nation
HLFN	Horse Lake First Nation
HRFN	Halfway River First Nation
KLMSS	Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society
MLIB	McLeod Lake Indian Band
MNBC	Métis Nation British Columbia
PRFN	Prophet River First Nation
SFN	Saulteau First Nations
WMFN	West Moberly First Nations

1 Background

1.1 The Site C Clean Energy Project

The Site C Clean Energy Project (the Project) is a third dam and generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. As the third project on one river system, Site C relies on water already stored in the Williston Reservoir. Site C will generate about 35% of the energy produced at W.A.C. Bennett Dam, with only five per cent of the reservoir area. Site C provides enough clean electricity to reliably power nearly 500,000 homes annually, and increases BC Hydro's total electricity supply by about 8%, strengthening energy reliability and supporting the province's growing need for clean power.

1.2 Construction Update

Construction on the Site C project began in 2015 and the project is now substantially complete.

The project's first generating unit came online in October 2024, with the second unit following in December 2024, the third in February 2025, the fourth in late March 2025 and the fifth in July 2025. By August 2025, the sixth and final generating unit was online, bringing Site C into full operation.

Key project structures such as the earthfill dam, powerhouse, spillways, approach channel, substation and transmission connection to the provincial grid continue to perform well.

Remaining areas on the project that need to be completed include:

- backfilling the tunnels that were used to divert the Peace River;
- completing the permanent access roads around the site;
- site decommissioning (e.g., worker accommodation, construction bridge)
- revegetating areas no longer required for construction; and
- building the Site C cultural centre.

2 Objective and Scope

2.1 Objective of the Aboriginal Group Communication Plan

The objective of the June 5, 2015 Aboriginal Group Communication Plan (AGCP) is to fulfill the requirements of Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) conditions 27 and 72, and federal Decision Statement (FDS) condition 14.2.

The AGCP establishes a communications program for informing Indigenous Nations and harvesters about construction activities related to the Project that may affect their harvesting opportunities for plants, fish and game, as well as access to those opportunities.

2.2 Scope and Reporting Period

This annual report describes BC Hydro's communications and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations through the implementation of the AGCP from April 2025 through March 2026. In some cases, communication and engagement with Indigenous Nations on measures described in the AGCP that took place prior to this reporting period are also summarized here for context.

This is the eleventh annual report of the AGCP. We have now entered the operations phase of the Project and the AGCP annual reports are expected to continue for an additional four years, with the final report scheduled for submission in March 2030.

3 Implementation of the Plan – April 2025 through March 2026

This report summarizes the implementation of the communication and consultation initiatives specific to Indigenous Nations that are described in [section 5.0 of the AGCP](#).

The bulleted list of communication activities shown at the beginning of section 5.0 is not specific to Indigenous Nations, but these materials are publicly available, and it is expected that they are utilized by members of Indigenous communities. These activities are described in [section 3.2 of the Construction Communication Plan \(CCP\)](#) with more information available in the annual reports for the CCP, found on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Environmental Management document library](#).

Communications specific to Indigenous Nations that were undertaken in the reporting period are described below.

Unless otherwise indicated, the communications summarized below were sent out to all Indigenous Nations named in the EAC and FDS: Saulteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, Prophet River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Halfway River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Métis Nation British Columbia, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Duncan's First Nation, and Dene Tha' First Nation. For purposes of brevity, acronyms for the above Indigenous Nations are used in this annual report. A list of acronyms is provided at the beginning of this report.

3.1 Notices of Construction Activities

The quarterly notices to Indigenous Nations addressed EAC condition 27 and FDS condition 14.2, which require BC Hydro to inform Indigenous harvesters about construction activities that may

impact their harvesting opportunities. These notices served as the "Indigenous Harvesters Information Sheet" described in the AGCP.

As Site C has progressed to the Operations phase, with reservoir filling complete and construction substantially complete on the Project, the final quarterly construction notification letter was sent on November 29, 2024.

Previous copies of The Notices of Construction Activities are also posted for Indigenous Nations on the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site (see section 3.6) and a public version of the notice is posted along with construction bulletins on the Project's public website at the following address: <https://www.sitecproject.com/construction-activities/construction-bulletins>.

To date, the Site C Environmental Forum and related communication channels have hosted multiple discussions and presentations on fish and aquatics monitoring, fish passage, and fisheries enhancement programs.

To meet ongoing condition requirements, BC Hydro shared additional information with the Nations at Environmental Forum Meeting #41 on February 18, 2026. During the virtual session, the Fish and Aquatics Lead presented the initial reservoir sampling methodologies and results. Fish and aquatic sampling on the Site C reservoir began in 2025.

Links to annual environmental reports were also provided during the meeting and included in the follow-up summary materials.

3.2 Information Updates to Indigenous Nations

With the completion of reservoir filling and the transition of the Project to the operations phase, the final Monthly Information Letter was sent to Nations on March 7, 2025.

Following March 2025, regular information sharing continues through existing communication channels and meeting forums rather than through a dedicated monthly email update. Copies of all previously distributed Information Letters remain available on the Site C Information for Indigenous Nations SharePoint site. Copies of previously distributed information letters are saved on the Site C Information For Indigenous Nations SharePoint site.

3.3 Consultation Meetings

3.3.1 Permitting Forums

BC Hydro created the Permitting Forum in 2016 at the request of First Nations and held seven sessions through January 2018. In 2018, the Province and BC Hydro introduced a coordinated consultation process to improve efficiency, reduce workload for First Nations, and better manage permit timelines. The Permitting Forum became the main venue for pre-application consultation with the same First Nations WLRS consults on provincial permits.

As the Project is in the Operations Phase and is substantially complete, the number of permits has decreased and BC Hydro integrates the Permitting Forum into the Environmental Forum when needed, providing an ongoing space to discuss permitting and regulatory matters.

3.3.2 Environmental Forums

The Environmental Forum enables BC Hydro and Indigenous Nations to collaborate, share information, and seek input and participation opportunities related to key interests identified by Indigenous Nations related to the Project's environmental mitigation plans and monitoring programs. Topics addressed by the Environmental Forum relate to fish and fish habitat, wildlife, vegetation and heritage, and may be linked to conditions of the EAC, FDS, and permits or authorizations. A key initiative for the Environmental Forum membership was the rollout of the Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF), an \$13M fund to mitigate the impacts of the Project on the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous Nations. As the Project is in the Operations Phase and is substantially complete, the number of Forums held annually have decreased. We continue to share information regularly through existing communication channels and meeting forums.

Environmental Forums held during the reporting period are described below.

- Environmental Forum #40 was held on May 28, 2025. The in-person meeting included a tour of the Dam site, with 14 Nation members in attendance representing eight Indigenous Nations. Sites visited during the tour included the Permanent Upstream Fishway, the Dam crest, and reclamation areas A and E.
- Environmental Forum #41 was held on February 18, 2026. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: Indigenous Traditional Use Fund; dam, generating station and reservoir performance monitoring, fisheries & aquatics, vegetation and wildlife monitoring programs, reclamation and the reservoir opening plan.

3.3.3 Environmental Forum Sub-Committees

To support key initiatives of the Environmental Forum, four sub-committees / working groups have been formed. This includes the Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF) Working Group, the Methylmercury Sub-committee, the Reclamation Sub-committee, and the Site C Conservation Officer Working Group. The ITUF Working Group held two meetings over the reporting period. The Reclamation Sub-committee held four meetings, including one field tour over the reporting period.

3.3.4 Culture and Heritage Resources Committee

The Culture and Heritage Resources Committee (Committee) was established with Indigenous Nations to advise BC Hydro on the management of Project effects on cultural resources. The

Committee initially met on July 30, 2015 and held their final meeting on May 15, 2024. The Committee met its objectives through completion of multiple projects. Commemoration of cultural heritage resources continues through development of the Site C Cultural Centre, through the Cultural Centre Working Group.

BC Hydro continued to work with Indigenous Nations on the development of the future cultural centre. During the reporting period, BC Hydro hosted 11 Working Group meetings. The discussions focused on refining exhibit design and plans for content creation. While attendance varied at the meetings and workshops, representatives from the following groups participated: BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre Project Team (Colliers Project Leaders, W3 Design Group, Kasian Architecture and Wildstone Construction Group) as well as representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC, and Sauteau First Nations. In addition to the meetings, training funds were made available to Treaty 8 members interested in training for future operational roles at the Site C Cultural Centre.

3.4 Sauteau First Nations Registered Trapline Holders

BC Hydro remains engaged with SFN registered trapline holders whose tenure areas are affected by project construction and operations. BC Hydro contacts registered trapline holders in advance of any project investigations or construction activities planned to take place within their respective trapline areas.

3.5 Ground Truthing and other Field Activities

BC Hydro maintains a standing invitation to Indigenous Nations to meet and discuss issues or concerns regarding the Project. This may include other field activities like site visits in the project activity zone with interested groups.

During this reporting period, BC Hydro followed up with interested Indigenous Nations to coordinate and host site visits and other field activities in the dam site area.

The [Aboriginal Plant Use Mitigation Plan](#) (APUMP) and the [CRMP](#) describe ground truthing as it pertains to plants of traditional Indigenous value and cultural resources, respectively. Ground truthing and other field activities conducted by or with Indigenous Nations are described in annual reports for these plans that are available on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Document Library](#) and the Site C Information for Indigenous Nations SharePoint Site.

As the Project is substantially complete, there are few unimpacted areas remaining within the project footprint. Nations have conveyed that there is limited or no interest in ground truthing and

harvesting in areas that have already been impacted by the Project. BC Hydro will continue to be responsive to questions or concerns raised and coordinate field activities if needed.

3.6 Site C Information for Indigenous Nations SharePoint Site

The *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site is a central repository for documents and information shared with Indigenous Nations. It is password protected and not accessible to the public.

On February 22, 2019 BC Hydro launched a new and improved SharePoint site based on Indigenous Nations' feedback. The new and improved layout is designed to make it easier to find information on the Project. Project page categories include:

- *Project Construction* information such as Biweekly Updates and the quarterly Notices of Construction Activities;
- *Spatial files* related to project designs, archaeological sites, cadastral data, maps and environmental features;
- *Environment* documents such as Environmental Protection Plans, Environmental Completion Reports, and Monthly Environmental Monitoring Summary Reports, Geotechnical Investigations and Fish, aquatics, vegetation and wildlife;
- *Heritage Reports* such as interim and annual reports from the heritage program;
- *Regulatory and Compliance* information such as draft mitigation and monitoring plans and select annual reports, federal approval applications, Water Licence Leaves to Commence Construction, and environmental assessment documents; and,
- *Meeting materials* from forums and other meetings.
- Information about the SharePoint site along with sign-in information is provided to Indigenous Nations in communications described above in sections 3.1 through 3.3 of this report.

3.7 External Project Website

The Site C Clean Energy Project website (sitecproject.com) provides additional information including:

- Mitigation and Monitoring Plans and Annual Reports
- Employment and business opportunities
- Federal authorizations and provincial permits

- Construction activities
- Indigenous relations
- Environmental Management Plans and Reports
- Permits and Authorizations
- Environmental Assessment Reports
- Project Planning and Evaluation Reports
- Consultation and Engagement Reports
- Environment and Socio-Economic Reports
- Engineering and Technical Reports
- Historical Site C Reports
- Quarterly Progress Reports to the BCUC
- Employment Statistics
- Construction Contracts
- Reservoir Filling
- Project Videos and Photos

3.8 Environment Programs

BC Hydro has several environmental programs as a part of Site C. The programs focus on monitoring to see what effects (if any) the project has on wildlife, fish, vegetation, air, water, the aquatic environment, as well as heritage and archaeology and how well our mitigation is working to protect these features. For each program, results are shared through the Site C Project website in the [Document Library](#). Annual reports are made available on the project website as they are finalized. A brief overview of the programs can be found on project website, [Site C Environmental Programs](#).