

## SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

# CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Consultation and stakeholder engagement is a key component of planning for the Site C project. Comprehensive consultation with the public — including local and regional governments, communities, stakeholders, property owners and the general public — has taken place since 2007 and will continue through project construction on some specific project features.

### **Continued public engagement**

BC Hydro recognizes the importance of continued engagement as the Site C project moves forward and are committed to continuing to work closely with the people living and working in the Peace Region, including Indigenous groups, property owners, local governments and other important stakeholders.

### **Regional and local government engagement**

Since 2007, BC Hydro has engaged local and regional governments to ensure they are kept up to date on the status of the project and are consulted on key issues.

The **Regional Community Liaison Committee** is an advisory forum for elected officials and staff, and Indigenous leaders to receive information about project construction, mitigation and compliance reporting, and to bring forward community interests, issues and concerns about the project. In addition, BC Hydro's technical staff regularly engages directly with municipal staff in Peace Region communities.

### **Property owner liaison**

BC Hydro provides information to, and gathers input from, property owners and leaseholders in the Site C project area. The purpose of the project's property owner liaison program is to:

- Provide information and update property owners regarding project planning.
- Facilitate two-way information exchange between property owners and the project team.
- Engage with property owners prior to, and during, defined periods of consultation.
- Negotiate and provide compensation for permissions to access private property for the purposes of technical and environmental field studies.
- Work with property owners to acquire the land and rights required for the project.

### **Local area consultations**

BC Hydro is committed to enhancing openness and transparency through increased project communications. During construction, BC Hydro will assess the need for topic-specific or area-specific consultations as appropriate. Additional opportunities for consultation may arise as community benefits and mitigation measures are implemented. For example, the framework for the Agriculture Mitigation and Compensation Plan was developed with input from Peace Region land owners, tenure holders, agricultural



producers, and agricultural stakeholders, including local governments and Indigenous groups. Feedback from consultation may be used to inform decision making related to project design and mitigation plans.

### **Business liaison**

BC Hydro has established a business liaison program to keep businesses informed and updated on the project. For example, Site C Business Information Sessions were held with local, regional and provincial businesses in 2011, 2012 and 2013. In addition, BC Hydro and its contractors may hold business-to-business networking sessions in the Peace Region, providing opportunities for potential contractors to meet local suppliers and potentially form partnerships.

The **Site C Business Directory** ensures that interested businesses receive information about project opportunities. Registered companies receive updates, via email, on potential business opportunities as they arise, as well as notifications about events such as business information sessions.

### **Community relations**

BC Hydro's community relations program will continue through all stages of the project. It includes community meetings, regular presentations and project updates, a project website, a public enquiry program and participation in community events. During the construction stage, BC Hydro will assess the need for open houses or information meetings, especially in communities where there is the potential for project impacts.

### **Construction information and notification program**

BC Hydro is committed to providing the public with information about Site C construction activities in a timely manner. A comprehensive construction information and notification program is in place to ensure residents and communities are kept up-to-date on construction activities. Throughout the construction period, BC Hydro will issue regular **Construction Bulletins** with information about upcoming construction activities, the anticipated duration of work and potential impacts.